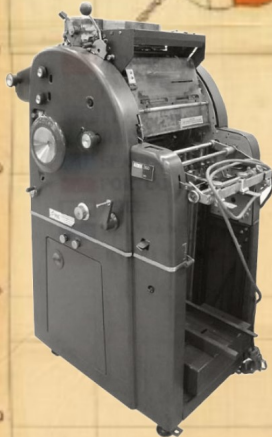


I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE

*-Hebrews 13:5*

# FOOTPRINTS OF *Faith*

THE STORY OF WATSON AND ROSE GOODMAN



THE WELLS MAN  
362 FRANK  
CHICAGO

BY DR. PAUL E. PARKER

## INTRODUCTION

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” —Hebrews 11:1*

God called two young people, Watson and Rose (Stair) Goodman, to be missionaries. Their nearly 16 years in Africa developed their Christian faith, teaching them that God Himself is dependable in all



things: through dangers, in times of need, and in doing exploits for Him.

Through personal experience with nationals, God gave them a compelling view of the worldwide hunger for God’s Word. They printed Scripture booklets called *Help From Above* in three African languages while in South Africa, but there were never enough.

God called the Goodmans back to America in 1961 to begin, by faith, an interdenominational ministry of printing Scripture

watson and rose goodman co-founders of world  
missionary press

booklets for worldwide free distribution in the languages of the people. At the end of the twelfth year of printing, more than 40 million copies of *Help From Above*, *Meditations in the Psalms*, *A Bible Study on Matthew*, and *Wings Over Zion* had been sent into at least 110 countries in more than 75 languages without cost to the recipients. God Himself has evidenced unseen things through the *faith* and *prayers* and *gifts of time and finances* of increasing numbers of His children. —*Paul E. Parker, Sr. Cottonwood, Arizona 1974*

In celebration of the 34th year of the ministry of World Missionary Press, this book was updated and reprinted with the prayer that faith would be inspired and that many would be moved to become involved in the great task of publishing Scripture booklets and Bible studies. Now, after 42 years of operation, **one billion 124 million** have gone into 209 countries of the world in 315 languages as God has provided the resources.



Painting use for the original cover. Art by Roger Mollenhour. The painting is related to the story on page 3-5.

## Arrival in Africa

Ever since the Master said that faith as small as a grain of mustard seed would move mountains, Christians have curiously watched the mysterious circumstances and timing that God uses to answer prayer. God often uses the commonplace to supply varying needs in various places. But the certainty of the life of faith will always depend on the promises of God.

The Portuguese ship *Nyassa* had just docked at Lourenço Marques, Mozambique, in southern Africa. It was a beautiful African spring day in September, 1945. Young Watson Goodman and his wife Rose, along with their baby, Victoria, were just entering the continent of their call. In response to the gentle sea breeze, the blue gum trees seemed to wave a welcome to the new missionaries.

As Watson and Rose glanced at each other, a joy glowed in their faces. What would it all be like? What strange people would they meet? Their minds were filled with a multitude of new challenges. They looked far inland at the hill country, then at the surging crowds eager to meet relatives and friends arriving on the Portuguese ship. Amid the welcoming cheers of the dockside throng, the Goodmans quietly rejoiced anew that the living God was their God, that He was just the same as when Abraham or when David Livingstone followed Him.

The Goodmans were met by ministers G.A. Schoombie and E.L. Wilson of the Pilgrim Holiness Church. Reverend Wilson took the new arrivals to the Stegi Mission Station for two weeks of orientation, after which they would travel several hundred miles south to Mt. Frere in the Cape Province of the Republic of South Africa for their permanent assignment.

While at Stegi, they noted some cultural characteristics. Watson remarked to Rose, "Isn't it inspiring to see the happiness of these African Christians? How they sing and rejoice in the Lord!"

On one visit to a grass hut, Watson saw a native man gnawing on a cooked monkey, head and all. Evidently this was an area where people were not very well acquainted with forks, knives, and spoons!

## A Guardian Rock

After two weeks filled with helpful experience and challenge, the Goodmans left one evening for the Piet Retief railway station en route to Mt. Frere. The worn-out Ford was loaded with baby Vicky in her little pram (baby buggy) and a heap of luggage surrounding her in the back seat. Watson, Rose, and the driver were in front.

The 30-mile trip crossed the Drakensberg Mountains—the highest mountain range in South Africa. A beautiful evening was made perfect with a richly purple skyline. Anticipation of the NEW in a new country was fully rewarding. Sights, sounds, scenery, animals, and plants were so different.

Time slipped away and darkness settled upon the travelers. The winding mountainous road grew steeper. A precipice hugged the road tightly most of the way, dropping away several hundred feet. Watson was beginning to wonder in his heart whether this old car really would get them to the top of the mountain safely, when all at once the car stalled, the brakes failed to hold, the emergency brakes would not respond, and the car began to roll backwards, gaining momentum.

“We’ll have to get this car stopped somehow!” exclaimed the driver. They could not see in the darkness, but they knew there were curves coming up behind them and that the precipice was close to the road. To go over the precipice would mean certain death.

The driver meant to stop the car by guiding the back end against the bank side of the road. But in the excitement of the moment, he cut the wheels the wrong way and the back end of the car went toward the precipice. All called on the Lord for protection!

God heard their cry. He had heard it thousands of years before, when He created the heaven and the earth. He *knew* Watson and Rose Goodman, little Vicky, and the driver would need protection on that mountainside in 1945. So He had placed a huge rock, bigger than a piano, right on the edge of that precipice. Their car came to an abrupt stop, the back end hitting the boulder dead center. Oh, the *wonderful* mercies of our living Lord and Savior!

Watson recalled the words of David the psalmist, “O LORD, . . . the darkness and the light are both alike to thee” (Psalm 139:1, 12).

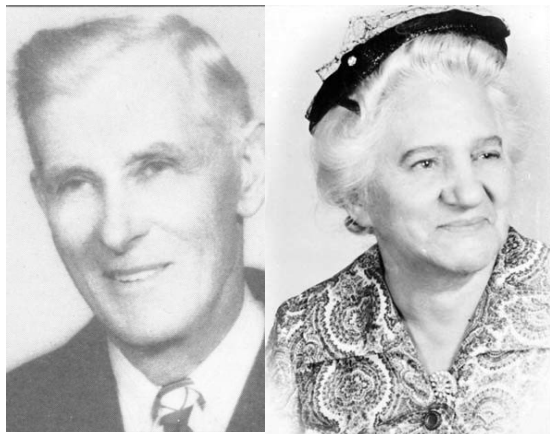
The car was not damaged beyond use, and prayers of thanksgiving were immediately offered.

Rose gathered baby Vicky into her arms, carried her across the road, and sat down on a smaller rock while the men worked with the car. As she lifted her face heavenward, she saw the sky literally filled with glittering stars. She felt joy akin to the awe Abraham must have felt when he looked up into the heavens and was reminded of the promises of God.

Rose exclaimed aloud to the Lord, “God, if You can do *this* for us, you can do *anything!*”

It had been Satan’s plan to destroy them, but God in His infinite POWER had protected them. That night, under that shining canopy of heaven, a new depth of faith was born in the Goodmans’ hearts.

Oh, the mystery of God’s provision! The years to follow would display a captivating variety of the heavenly Father’s protection and guidance as He demonstrated His promises to these missionaries and to the people they served.



Rose’s father and mother, Harry and Lillie Stair. Both lived a good Christian life as an example before their large family near Plymouth, Indiana.

### **The Early Years at Home**

Watson Goodman was born in Ohio and Rose Stair in Indiana in the same month of the same year (January, 1920). The parents of each had prayed that all their children might know Christ as personal Savior.

Rose said of her family, “All six of us children went regularly to Sunday

school and church with our parents, but to my knowledge none of us children had really had a born-again experience by the time I was 14 years old.” With her brother, Victor, who was a competent guitar player, she frequently sang for local groups, talent displays, and between acts of

school plays. When a sponsor of Home Talent Barn Dance Shows on WLS, the large Chicago radio station, heard them, they were offered free voice training if they would come and sing on their home talent shows. Yes, the entertainment world was bidding high for talent, but God had his own plans for Rose Stair.

One Sunday as the whole Stair family drove home from church, they swerved suddenly to miss a chicken. Their car ran upon some loose gravel, skidded, and turned upside down. Coming face to face with possible death at age 14, Rose felt unready to face a holy God. She cried out her first really earnest prayer, "Oh, God, save me!" She promised God she would seek Him with all her heart.

God heard not only Rose's prayer but also those of each family member, and all eight of them climbed from that car without injury.

God continued speaking in various ways to Rose of His mercies and of her need to be a real Christian. In two weeks' time Reverend and Mrs. C. C. Decker began evangelistic meetings in the Stairs' home



church, Shiloh Wesleyan Methodist, near Plymouth, Indiana. Rose was quick to heed the still small voice of God's Spirit, confess her sins, and yield fully to God's will for her life. She found wonderful peace in her heart, and while still at the altar she felt the Lord's call to be a missionary in Africa.

Later her mother shared that she had dedicated Rose to the Lord for the mission field before she was born. Having had a desire to go to the mission field herself at one time, her mother had prayed, "Perhaps this child can go."

God can use even the daydreams of children for His honor. And later God can multiply dreams of service for Himself and in time fulfill them for Christian missions.

In 1859, Mary Slessor, a mere lassie of Aberdeen and Dundee, Scotland, was playing school with her dolls. She pretended that they were all black, for God had deeply touched her heart in behalf of the

native children in southern Nigeria, Africa. And it was near Calabar, Nigeria, that Mary Slessor, the missionary, would later be mightily used by God to stop tribal wars, win many natives to Christ, build churches, and change the face of a country.

About 74 years later, the heart of young Rose Stair was also burning with missionary zeal for Africa. But what could an Indiana farm girl do? Rose talked with her mother. "Yes, it would be all right to raise some chickens and give the profit to missionaries in Africa." Plans were made, and soon it was a real thrill to get a box of baby chicks from the hatchery. She gave them her best care and pretended that her little white chicks were black. Half of them paid for the feed, but the sale of the other half provided the first missionary offering she had earned herself. Raising little chickens was lots of fun for Rose because she knew that as a result, some little black children would get to hear about Jesus for the first time.

Watson's godly parents instructed their seven children from the Bible and by Christian example. Each one was dedicated to God in infancy. In high school Watson at times wondered about a vocation. His parents were interested in several mission fields and missionaries. In fact, they had wanted to go to the foreign field themselves but were told they had too many children. They then became involved with home mission work and supported foreign missions.

In 1937, shortly before Watson's 18th birthday, Watson's next older brother, Woodrow, who was attending Marion College and felt a call to enter the ministry, was preaching near their home in Ohio. It was December 19, and as the invitation song was sung, God spoke to Watson's heart. That he was not a Christian he was sure, and that he needed God in his life he was also sure. God spoke strongly to Watson's heart, "*Watson, this may be your last chance.*" Under deep conviction

Watson's father and mother, Will and Myrtie Goodman. They, too, lived dedicated Christian lives before their large family near Lebanon, Ohio.

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Watson went forward to an altar of prayer, confessed his sins, and surrendered his life forever to the Lord. He would choose God's way and plan. As he looked to God in expectant faith, claiming 1 John 1:9, he knew the peace of Christ was his.

A short while before, Watson had heard Byron Crouse speak for two nights on the needs of mission fields he had visited. Although at the time Watson himself wanted to become a banker, he had thought how wonderful it would be sometime to support two missionaries. But after his conversion, the Lord made it plain to him, "Watson, I want YOU to go and tell of Jesus and His love."

### **High-School Days**

Since Watson was saved after his high-school days, he regretted that he had left no real witness for Christ with his classmates. But he was able to witness in a very definite way to a number of them at their 25th class reunion as each class member was given opportunity to tell what they were doing with their lives. Watson was also asked to lead in prayer on this occasion.

Rose, on the other hand, found herself busy with witnessing during her high-school days, as she was active in her church as well as at school. With much prayer and inward trembling she would at times take her stand publicly against becoming involved with dancing and other worldly activities. On one occasion she strongly felt led to witness personally to Hilda, a dear Catholic friend, during the lunch hour and emphasized the necessity of believing upon the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. The next day at school, Rose learned to her sorrow that Hilda's home had caught fire the night before. All the family had escaped but Hilda. She had burned to death! Only eternity can reveal the choice Hilda made.

Both Watson and Rose, after their conversions to Christ, were on guard that no activities they engaged in might weaken their testimony or fellowship with their Lord. Their missionary calls were faithfully

cultivated by prayer, Bible study, witnessing, and taking part in worship services.



Watson and Rose when they graduated from Marion College in 1942.

### **Foundations Upward**

Foundations of buildings go deep into the earth, out of sight, but the Christian's foundations—spiritual stability and answers to prayer—are fastened by the cables of faith and obedience to God's everlasting and unchanging Word.

Post high-school days found both Watson and Rose at Marion College in Indiana. This institution, young in years, was producing graduates with strong Christian purpose and high professional achievement. Classes were small. A personal touch of friendly inspiration was everywhere. Expenses were not high, but wages were uncommonly low at that time.

During her first year, Rose earned money by cleaning the homes of various professors and by babysitting.

Watson helped earn his way through college by serving as head waiter in the dining hall, as Assistant Dean of Men, and by student preaching. He also preached and sang second bass in a college quartet that traveled through various states.

As their schooling advanced, each participated in clubs such as International Relations, Science, Music, Hiking, and Language. Rose was elected to the Student Council.

After completing her first year of college, Rose saw no financial possibility to return for her second year. She felt physically exhausted from working in so many homes, but trustfully she prayed about the matter and committed it to her heavenly Father.

One evening in northern Indiana, her brother Ray was a guest of their great-uncle Nelson Funk (an inventor who was well-known in the printing-press field). The two men were sitting in the back yard, visiting about the scattered members of their families. Rose was casually mentioned and her hope to continue college when possible. Quietness seemed to settle upon them, and Uncle Nelson strolled a short distance away and looked up to the stars. Returning to Ray, he inquired more about Rose's need, then the general visiting continued.

The Saturday before college registration on the following Monday, Rose knelt in her room at the home of her cousin Irene, where she had been working for the summer. She put before the Lord a "fleece" that if He would provide for her sophomore year in college, she would be certain that God fully intended her to go to Africa and that from then on, no matter *how long* it took to work her way through, she would stick by it until she was fully trained.

She then said goodbye to Irene with the agreement that if the way opened for college, she would terminate her services, but if a way did not open, she would come back to work Monday morning.

That very noon, Rose walked into the Ambler Cream Station in Plymouth, Indiana, where her parents usually picked her up for the weekend. The phone was ringing. After answering, Mrs. Ambler said, "Rosie, it's for you." This was the first and only time a phone call ever

came for Rose at this Saturday meeting place.

Rose's sister, Vera, was on the phone. The message she gave was most unusual: "Rosie, just stay where you are. Our great-uncle Nelson has come, and he wants to see you. He is coming for you and will bring you home."

What an unexpected answer to prayer followed! Uncle Nelson put in Rose's hand a fifty-dollar bill for registration the following Monday and promised the rest of the year's college expenses. Rose knew for sure that her mission call was sealed by God Himself!

During their sophomore year of college, Watson was elected president and Rose secretary of their class. Even so, they became only nominally acquainted.

In their junior year, the Missionary Workers' Band provided useful classes and discussions of mission fields and challenges. Their senior year brought practical work. Rose was Art editor and Special Feature editor of the college yearbook, and Watson served as pastor of a Friends church in Fiat, Indiana.

Watson was used by the Lord while on campus to do personal work with hitchhikers who stood nearby trying to catch rides with anyone who would stop. Conversing with one hitchhiker, Watson learned that he was strongly contemplating suicide. Persuading him to go "home" with him, take a bath, and dress up (in a suit Watson found for him), Watson took him to a revival service being held in the college church. This hitchhiker went to the altar and surrendered his heart and life to God—another soul rescued from Satan's clutches.

Then one Sunday—December 7, 1941—came the announcement that Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor, thus marking the beginning of the United States' full entry into World War II. In the spring of 1942, although a general uncertainty was present in all education and national life, Watson Goodman and Rose Stair were graduated from Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University) with their Bachelor of Theology degrees. Both had been elected by the faculty to be listed in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*.

## **The God of Circumstance**

A senior-class tradition at Marion College was the “Senior Sneak.” If the class could successfully sneak away without being caught by the junior class, they could take an excused day of sightseeing with a faculty sponsor. Watson recalls, “Early in the fall semester, our senior class made a successful ‘sneak’ trip to Chicago. Everyone enjoyed the visits to many scientific and educational exhibits and chuckled about our successful evasion from the junior class.

“At the time of boarding the bus at a stopover in Plymouth, Indiana, our driver had to wait for two young college ladies. For some reason Rose and her roommate, Phyllis Green, had been detained. The rest of us were anxious to get on our way. Would they ever come?

“What happened next was providential. It must have been planned by the Lord. Phyllis found a place to sit on that crowded bus, but there was no other place for Rose to sit but by me!

“Interspersed with the singing of gospel songs on the bus, Rose and I began to discuss our calls to missionary work. Although I had never had clear direction where I would serve, I had been interested in the Philippines. We spoke of the nature and similarities of our calls. Rose said that following her conversion, her call to Africa became very definite.

“Some weeks later, at study one afternoon, I suddenly sensed a deep desire to start dating Rose Stair, but I know if the Lord hadn’t helped me get her attention, she would never have paid any attention to me. In a very peculiar way the Lord prepared her heart.”

Rose had decided as a young girl not to date, because she was determined not to be sidetracked from her call to Africa. But one night during her senior year at Marion she had an unusual and powerful dream. In her dream she was dressed as a bride and was walking down the aisle of a church. At the end of the aisle was Reverend C. C. Decker holding a little black book. Her three sisters, dressed in white, were singing. Reverend Decker motioned for her to sit down in the front pew. As she rested her hand on the arm of the pew, a hand was placed over

her hand. A deep, musical voice (which she recognized as the Lord's) said, "It is I; be not afraid." When she looked at the hand, she recognized it as the hand of Watson Goodman. She woke up, stunned and amazed.

Soon after, a close friend, Mildred Cole, who was attending Ball State University, woke up in the middle of the night. As she began thinking about Rose and how sad it was that she was going to Africa as a missionary without a husband, she asked, "Who would make Rose Stair a good husband?" The name of Watson Goodman came to her. She drove up from Muncie to tell Rose. Soon after these events Watson Goodman began taking an interest in her, and Rose had been prepared by God to respond. Their first date was a double date with their respective roommates, Byron Tippey and Helen Zent (who also later married), singing hymns around an old organ. After that it seemed natural for them to do things together.

### **Summer After Graduation**

During the summer of 1942, Watson and Rose corresponded regularly. Watson was working on the railroad in Decatur, Indiana, witnessing to the men, who found it easy to curse and take God's name in vain. At the same time he continued pastoring the Fiat Friends Church. It was during this summer that Watson was ordained to the ministry at the age of 22.

In those early days he learned that the Lord reaches across denominational lines. He was a member of the Pilgrim Holiness Church, attending a Wesleyan Methodist college, and pastoring a Friends church. Here was the beginning of a feeling that later came into full bloom in both Watson and Rose—that they belong to born-again people wherever they are, for the Church that Jesus Christ is building consists of all people who are born of the Spirit of God.

Since Rose felt led to re-enroll in college and work on her Bachelor of Science degree for teacher certification, Watson also decided to reenter and get his Bachelor of Arts degree.

## **A Home Dedication with a Surprise Ending**

Mrs. Blanche M. Goodwin, professor of Art and German at Marion College for whom Rose was then working, decided to have her newlybuilt home dedicated to the Lord. Mrs. Goodwin cooperated eagerly when she learned that Watson and Rose wanted to find a way to announce their engagement in a surprise setting.

“You can do it at the close of my home dedication!” she exclaimed. “Let me invite your closest friends, and I will invite a few of mine. I shall get Reverend Decker to do the dedication. No one will ever suspect, . . . but you must be careful not to tell a soul. It’s got to be a surprise!”

March 1, 1943, was the date set. What a perfect arrangement! Watson financed the refreshments. Mrs. Clyde Meredith, wife of their theology professor, and Mrs. Charles Taylor, for whom Rose did babysitting, prepared a lovely meal of creamed chicken and homemade biscuits, using Mrs. Goodwin’s kitchen.

Talk about excitement! Everyone invited had come. Reverend Decker proceeded with the dedication. Only four people on the campus knew what was to happen after that home was dedicated. While refreshments were being served, someone knocked briskly on the door and everything became quiet. There stood J.W. Kiser, dressed for the occasion, presenting a special telegram which announced the engagement.

In the presence of all, Watson presented Rose with a lovely Gruen wristwatch. They also announced that just as soon as World War II permitted, they planned to sail for Africa under the auspices of the Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Later one professor whom Rose admired said she wasn’t at all surprised to learn of her engagement: “You see, I often pray for you and your future missionary work, and I already felt that marriage was part of God’s plan for you.”

## **A Love Sparkle in Their Eyes**

The writer of this book knew Watson Goodman and Rose Stair in their late teens, had them in college classes, and saw them in everyday life. Each one had experienced the Holy Spirit's empowering and inner-cleansing presence. To this Biblical requirement for Christian service their lives and words bore happy witness. In their exemplary courtship was observed that secret joy which is the heritage of Christians. Yes, there was a love sparkle that shone in their eyes at times. The faculty noticed it, as well as some of their close friends. The great array of college tasks was met with purpose and perseverance. As they kept Christ first, He would demonstrate their faith while in Africa and later through the printing and distribution of God's Word in many language for many countries.

## **Marriage and Early Wedded Life**



The candle-light wedding was August 30, 1943, at Plymouth, Indiana.

The happy couple decided to make Rose's beautiful dream of her wedding day come true in every detail possible. They were married in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Plymouth, Indiana, in a beautiful candlelight ceremony on Monday evening, August 30, 1943. Rose's three sisters—Vera, Vida, and Tressie—sang several trios and dressed in white just as in the dream.

Reverend C. C. Decker was again present, this time to solemnize the ceremony. Immediately afterward,

Watson's father led in a meaningful re-dedication of these two lives whom God had joined together. Both knelt at the foot of a huge white cross entirely covered with beautiful white flowers, while Rose's sisters



sang "All For Jesus."

The lovely flower arrangements throughout the church and on the cross were graciously prepared and provided by Rose's relatives, Cecila and Wilma Beyler. In the years to come, when life on the mission field presented the drab and barren side of life, Rose had the memory of this beautiful evening to look back upon. Truly, flowers have their own way of speaking.

The couple spent a delightful one-day honeymoon at Winona Lake, Indiana.

The following day Rose was in the classroom teaching school in Poneto, Indiana. In fact, she had helped register her pupils the very day of their wedding and avoided telling them her name, since it was to be changed that evening. Then with the Wednesday opening of school she introduced herself as "Mrs. Goodman."

Watson still pastored the Fiat Friends Church and was soon asked to teach in the Bluffton Junior High School because so many men were being called into World War II.

During the following summer, 1944, Watson and Rose attended Wycliffe's Summer Institute of Linguistics at Bacone College in Oklahoma. Their anthropology and phonetic courses would soon have application among the many tribes of Africa.

They were then sent to an orientation school for outgoing missionaries in Allentown, Pennsylvania. While there, they were approached by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Vincent to fill a pastorate in Milton, Delaware, for approximately six months.

## Vicky, the First Family Addition

During their time in Milton, the church arranged for Watson's father to preach for their revival services and for Rose's three sisters to do the special singing. Mother Goodman also was able to come so she



could be with Rose on the wonderful day of November 30, 1944, when the Goodmans were blessed with the birth of their first child, Victoria Raye—named after Rose's two brothers, Victor and Ray, who were then in the Air Corps and Medical Corps respectively.

Dr. James, who delivered the baby, remarked to his nurse about Watson and Rose, "Here is a marriage that was made in heaven."

Watson, Rose, and Vicky when Watson pastored in Milton, Delaware, 1945.

## Bon Voyage—Rough Beginning

Leave-taking and farewells behind, prayer for their safety continued, and soon the family of three boarded the Portuguese ship *Serpa Pinto* in Philadelphia. Their destination was South Africa by way of Lisbon, Portugal, and Cape Town as well as several smaller ports. The first morning at sea, Watson went on deck to view the ocean out of sight of land. A severe storm had set in which would last for three days. He went to breakfast, ordered two eggs, and wondered why so few people were hungry. Before the eggs were served, he knew the answer and left the dining room at once. Seasickness was difficult, but this was to be his only such experience on several ocean trips.

On the second night out, Watson was sleeping when a thunderous

crash caused the ship to stagger and tremble. Rose's bed upset, and she went sprawling on the floor. As the bed turned over, it broke the light switch off the wall, leaving them in total darkness. Six-month-old Vicky was struck by an object falling from the bunk bed above, but a cracker soon quieted her.

Outside the Goodmans' stateroom, a man cried out for help to save his son from the waves. Though the ship's motors stopped, the captain soon managed to head the ship into the huge waves instead of taking them broadside. Two lifeboats on top of the vessel were demolished—the waves were so high. The ship rolled first one way then the other until Watson felt the ship must surely sink at any time. But the Goodmans were satisfied to go either to heaven or to Africa. Watson said to Rose, "That would be all right; we're ready." And then great peace comforted their hearts. Their spirits were at rest. On the third day a calm ocean was theirs for the first time.

At Lisbon, Portugal, their first landing, they were met by missionaries they had known at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Oklahoma. Many had been detained for five weeks by World War II hindrances. While the Goodmans themselves waited five weeks, Watson had a chance to preach in several places.

About the second day of August, the Goodmans left Lisbon on the Portuguese vessel *Nyassa* en route to Mozambique. While they were at sea, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, signaling the close of World War II. Four or five stops were made in African ports before reaching Cape Town, where they went ashore for their first meal without the ever-present olive oil with which all food on the Portuguese ship had been drenched.

### **First Term in Africa**

After a few hours in Cape Town, the Goodmans continued their voyage up the southeast African coast to land at Lourenço Marques, then the capital of Mozambique. On board were 325 Portuguese immigrants arriving, and on shore were about 2,000 clamoring relatives to greet

them.

Two church superintendents welcomed the Goodmans and took them to the Stegi Mission Station for a short “get-acquainted” stay in its Swaziland setting. Every sunrise saluted them. The scenery was different — African. Black faces greeted them joyously. Baby Vicky cooed her approval to the many women and children who stopped to welcome the white baby. They were then taken to the Piet Retief railway station to begin the last 500-mile leg of the trip to their first mission post—Mt. Frere—in the Transkei, a huge native reserve in the Cape Province of South Africa.

There, missionaries Ray and Ruth Miller, former students of Asbury College, gladly received them.

Detained by World War II, the Millers had been at Mt. Frere for at least ten years without a furlough. Mt. Frere was in a vast native reserve of mountainous country, about 175 miles southwest of Durban and midway between Basutoland and the Indian Ocean coastline. It was Xhosa country, and the population was more than 98-percent black. The few white people lived in small prescribed villages. Typical of drier Africa, there were many thorn bushes and the hot season was long and dusty. In the mission yard was a sizable tree, under which lived a nest of poisonous puff adders. Underneath the bedroom floor of the mission home lived a family of deadly night adders which no one had ever been able to kill.

### **A Miracle Birth**

The native people dearly loved Vicky. At ten months she was beginning a small vocabulary of understandable words. When baby brother, Donald Watson, was born on December 13, 1945, she was so overjoyed upon seeing him that she put two words together, exclaiming, “Pret-ty ba-by! Pret-ty ba-by!”

Baby Donnie was literally a miracle baby. God spared both mother and baby Donnie in a difficult breach birth during which Rose almost died at the little Mt. Frere hospital. The only doctor for the entire district

was busily engaged elsewhere. Rose says, “The conscious experience of walking through ‘the valley of the shadow of death’ *with Christ* beside me and the light from God’s throne shining on my path was worth more to me than a million dollars or any earthly treasure.” Six weeks later Rose was back to her responsibilities at the mission.

As both children grew, God used them in significant ways to open the hearts of the people. In one instance when Donnie fell very, very ill, the school girls wept and sought God. A real revival came to the school. They were afraid God was going to punish them for their willful disobedience by taking Donnie away from them. After the revival, when hearts and attitudes were made right, it was amazing to see the rapid recovery of baby Donnie. Truly, “a little child shall lead them!”

### **Bird’s-Eye View of the Mt. Frere Challenge**



The Pilgrim Holiness Church, with government aid, operated a large industrial school in Mt. Frere for

The Mt. Frere mission school had 85 teenage African girls and a staff of ten teenage native girls who came from distances to live on the mission compound during the school months. The three-year course led to a government certificate.

It was Rose’s responsibility as principal of the school to teach on government salary, which was then turned over to the school to help with the current running expenses. It was also her responsibility to conduct chapel six mornings a week and to plan all the daily menus for the students, handing over to the cooks the amount of food needed for the day. She had to set the examinations in all the subjects given to the girls

except for the final tests given to third-year students. At this stage the were thoroughly tested in practical cookery and cleaning, etc. by a government inspectress. She passed or failed them by their ability to cook an entire meal from memory (the menus being drawn by the students just before their tests), by their ability to remove stains from clothing, and by their sewing and knitting articles then on display. For the glory of the Lord no one failed during the years Rose was there. The coveted government certificate usually secured for the graduate a well-paying position in some well-to-do home, plus good food and a room.

Preaching the gospel and leading people to Christ was the Goodmans' chief concern, and a variety of tasks contributed to that goal. Watson was appointed superintendent of the whole work at the Mt. Frere mission station. He was business manager of the industrial school and was also responsible for 15 outstations, besides all the religious services at the central church on the mission compound. This church, newly built, was regularly attended by about 300 people.

Rose taught Sunday school twice every Sunday—once in the African church and again Sunday afternoon in her home for the white children of the village who would have had no Sunday school. She also led the Thursday afternoon children's meeting for the native area, spoke to the women's Manyana meeting another afternoon, and taught two evening Bible classes for the entire student body, taking half the school at a time. She also served as organist at the white people's prayer meeting held in the village. She had Saturday afternoon for her family.

### **Dedication of Good Hope Mission**

The Goodmans' most distant outstation was in Pondoland, 100 miles away over rough road with no road at all the last three miles. Later, with the help of Christian native builders, Watson developed this station by erecting a large mud-brick five-room dwelling which housed a dedicated native missionary family to work among the people. It also provided a temporary place of worship and a place for the white superintendent to stay when visiting. At this time an eight-bed



dispensary was also built.

Mrs. Maudi, the wife of the native missionary, was a registered nurse. What a perfect combination these two precious African Christians were—true soldiers of the cross of Christ

The mission station church at Mt. Frere seated about 500.

—taking the gospel message to this heathen tribe where leprosy and T.B. were prevalent and where witchdoctors would steal children (white or black) to remove their hearts for making powerful medicine!

At least 900 heathen natives came to the dedication of this new mission. The nucleus of people who were Christians felt that in some way Watson's name should be attached to the mission, so they requested the name to be "Good Hope Mission." At the time of this writing, the mission had grown to be a beautiful spot in the heart of Pondoland. A nice place of worship and a modern mission home graced the area like a beacon of love and light from above.

Although Mt. Frere was already 3,500 feet above sea level, 20 miles to the west rose high mountains whose atmospheric moisture made for most beautiful sunsets. With thankful hearts the Goodmans steadied themselves to the profusion of duties. Had not their college days taught them a wide variety of tasks? Here was the practical application.

## A Brief Glimpse of the People

In that part of Africa the lives of missionaries and natives were by necessity very simple. The principal native diet was mealies (corn), which was grown locally. A few fresh vegetables and beans were raised, but no



A raw “blanket” heathen man and wife by their hut. Multiplied thousands of these heathen lived in the 120 miles between Mt. Frere and the Indian Ocean.

fruit was available except when the missionaries went for business in larger towns such as Kokstad or Umtata, the capital of the Transkei, 63 miles away. Cattle, sheep, goats, and chickens were dependable sources of meat.

Among the Goodmans’ special blessings while here at their first mission assignment was the help of Jackson Sogoni. Born into a “blanket” heathen family of the Transkei, this man—converted to Christ, raised on the mission station, and given Bible school training—became an excellent interpreter for all the

Goodmans’ acquaintances. For getting the true Bible meaning across to his own people with the spirit, gestures, and even the intonations of the speaker, Jackson Sogoni had no equal.

Through faithful preaching and teaching of Bible truth, God continued to add converts to the churches. On one occasion Watson married three couples who had children present to witness the ceremony. The light of the gospel had so penetrated their hearts that the couples felt they should be married with a Christian ceremony.



## **A New Bible College**

The gospel needs of South Africa pressed upon all missionaries in the region. Officials of the Pilgrim Holiness Church, after prayerful consideration, believed it best for the Goodmans to go 575 miles north to the city of Brakpan on the Gold Reef to establish the first European Bible college in the Transvaal. Watson became its first president and Rose served as his secretary as well as matron and a member of the faculty. Other qualified faculty members joined the staff from other denominations.

One of the first duties for Watson and Rose was to write a college catalog and get it printed for distribution. (More time was spent in prayer than in preparation!) They also helped Reverend and Mrs. R. E. Strickland (who had come from the U.S. to superintend the white work on the Reef) select a suitable site for the college and get it ready for operation.

At this time Watson and Rose were very active in the Reefland Youth for Christ and, with their permission, announcements of the new college were made to the youth as well as in the surrounding churches.

The main purpose of the college was to prepare youth to take the gospel to the native areas or to minister to their own people.

A fine group of young people came forward to enroll—some as full-time students but a greater number in evening classes.

Rose was invited to hold weekly child-evangelism classes in a neighboring city for Christian workers from various churches there. his proved very rewarding.

About that time someone from the United States sent a foot-powered printing press to Brakpan. This intrigued Watson, and he tried to get it into use. By attaching an electric motor to it and training an African man as operator, he could produce 1,000 impressions per hour. This was encouraging, but even so, it struck Watson as being ridiculously slow compared with the vast need for the printed gospel message. The masses of newly literate children and teenagers on the Reef began to challenge the Goodmans, and in Watson's heart grew a

desire to do more with the printed page.

Faithfully the Goodmans ministered in the college and did a lot of preaching, speaking, and singing in churches of various denominations.

They also worked with boys and girls in the community, averaging a regular attendance of 80 children every week, with many experiencing the joy of salvation.

### **First Furlough**

As their furlough drew near in the fall of 1950, the Goodmans felt that their efforts through the Bible college were inadequate for the great needs. Yet fully trusting the Lord, they would go ahead as He led them. They engaged passage on a freighter to New Orleans, Louisiana, still deeply concerned for the unreached multitudes of urban African people.

Back in the United States, Watson's time was full of speaking engagements in Pilgrim Holiness churches. They had wonderful services, telling how God was blessing their efforts as a church on the mission field.

Rose was graciously excused from traveling very far afield due to the severe illness of her beloved father, Harry C. Stair, who was dying of cancer. It had been Rose's prayer that she be with her father when he went to be with the Lord. God answered that prayer. The whole immediate family was present, and though each member felt the loss keenly, they could rejoice that on January 15, 1951, their father safely "entered into the joy of his Lord." Among his last words were: "It will be better after awhile."

### **God's Will Is Made Plain**

God deals with people in different ways. When He wants a specific work done, He chooses specific individuals. God laid His hand upon the Goodmans in a very special way. The vision of all those untold thousands of urban Africans lay heavily upon them. These "other sheep" must be given the glorious salvation message of our living Lord.

Much prayer ascended to the throne of heaven concerning this

burning desire to return to Africa “to tell of Jesus and His love.” The huge African townships on the Gold Reef were beckoning to them, “Come over and help us.” A soul burden for these people became very heavy. Watson and Rose each sought God’s will.

One morning shortly before Rose’s father passed away, she knelt by the old sofa and asked God to make it very clear in some way on that very day just what God was asking them to do. It was evident in speaking with the officials of the mission board under whom they had served that they already had a full mission load with stations in the original tribal localities. There was no visible plan to develop missionary printing nor to enter new concentrated areas where as many as 17,000 Africans lived on less than one square mile. If God was truly wanting them to step out entirely on faith, trusting in Him to provide every penny, then He must make this very real to them.

When one gets desperate in prayer, it doesn’t take God long to answer. That very day as Rose entered the room where her father was sitting in the old armchair, she saw an expression of pain written across his face. But as he turned to greet her, his whole face illuminated as he spoke so definitely: “Rosie, why don’t you go back to South Africa and do just what God wants you to do.”

With a look of amazement Rose exclaimed, “Why, Daddy, I BELIEVE we will!” As she uttered these words, she felt a vital, living FAITH take hold in her heart, a faith which has never left, and so far as Rose was concerned, *this* was her answer. Only the Spirit of God could have prompted those words, for never once had they mentioned to the family about returning to Africa on faith. God had worked with Watson in quite a different way. He was already convinced God was trustworthy and would provide every step of the way.

### **Dynamics of Faith**

The Goodmans expected God to lead them, and they thought it possible to return to Africa in June of 1951. Watson applied for ship passage and went ahead with travel preparation.

On March 10 came a special delivery letter telling Watson that the ship applied for was being cancelled but that all those who had applied could book on the *Queen Mary* for the same price. However, they must know within 48 hours whether they were accepting the booking or not. The decision had to be made. Were they going back to Africa on faith in God alone? And if so, *when*?

“If we’re going on faith, we might as well go now,” Watson said to Rose. After they prayed about it, they were at peace and immediately wrote back to accept booking only five weeks away. This was earlier than expected, and since they lived in an apartment just above Rose’s mother in Bluffton, Indiana, they went downstairs to tell her their plans to start back within five weeks and without visible support.

Africa was calling; God was giving them peace about it all. They told God they would be glad to arrive there penniless in order to take the gospel to the vast number of children and teenagers, especially into the crowded native townships.

Before they had a chance to tell their friends about accepting booking to go back to Africa entirely on faith in God to provide, a letter arrived containing \$100.00 from friends who had never given before. The note said: “To be used to go back to South Africa!” This confirmed their conviction that God indeed was leading them.

Packing for the return trip and the purchase of extra equipment required a large amount of money in a short time. They went to prayer. Living by faith was new to them, but within five weeks God sent in \$2,200—enough for passage cost for their family of four and freight for their equipment. God was confirming their call.

When the Goodmans arrived in Africa, they had very little money. During the first month, God sent in \$87.00. They were thankful for this, but the contributions had greatly diminished, as though a faucet was being turned off. Had they not told God they were willing to arrive in Africa penniless? They rejoiced even in this.

Their work, called Gospel Centre Work, began at once in Germiston, a city of about 105,000, twelve miles east of Johannesburg,

South Africa, a city five times larger. The local government official granted them permits to enter the black Germiston township. Their income began to grow as needs increased. Though housing was scarce, they were able to rent one room in a very large house as living quarters. For cooking, Rose used a small kerosene burner.

On one occasion, after walking a couple miles with their five- and six-year-old children to hold native services, Rose remembered that her kerosene burner had been left on, cooking beans. This was most disturbing, since they were so far from home and were carrying suitcases full of gospel literature for their people. In this sudden need, they offered prayer that God would take care of it all. His assurance became very real, so they went ahead with the long meeting.

Returning home they found the burner out of fuel, but the beans still piping hot—just ready for eating! This incident, which could have been disastrous, taught the Goodmans that God is trustworthy in every *true* emergency of life. They felt the Lord's presence very real, and felt akin to the disciples when Jesus prepared a meal for them on the shore.

### **God Provides Housing**

As a family of four living in one large room, they hoped to find a larger place to rent. One day the young man delivering their mail



The Goodmans' new "faith" house at Sunnyridge

knocked and asked if they wanted to rent a larger place. Watson replied, "Yes, where could we find such a place?" Strangely, this young man said he had seen some people moving out of an apartment, and if they were quick they might be able to get it; otherwise it would soon be rented because so many people needed a place to live.

The Goodmans liked the

was their home for more than nine years  
until they came to start World Missionary Press

apartment, but the Italian landlord said he was reserving it for his son, who was expecting his bride to arrive any day from Italy. But this kindly man would rent it if the Goodmans would reserve one room for his son until his bride came, at which time they must move within that month. This proposal was accepted; the missionaries moved in at once and rejoiced in the improvement for family and work. For five months they occupied that place before the bride arrived and the son was married.

Realizing that building a house was a necessity if they were to have housing at all, the Goodmans went to see a real estate man. After some consideration, he gave them a bundle of house plans and told them to pick one within a certain price range. They saw that they could get a brick home (brick is cheaper than wood in South Africa) on a thirty year plan at approximately \$35.00 per month.

The plan Watson and Rose chose happened to be the only plan in the whole bundle the realtor himself had designed! This pleased him very much. From then on he took a great interest in helping them. In further considering their need, he said he knew of one government loan still available that year and for only 3.5% interest. He explained that the town clerk had a lot he thought might be connected with that loan. (The town clerk had lost his wife and was no longer interested in building there.)

The realtor then took the Goodmans to see the lot on a ridge called Sunnyridge. To their surprise they found it was the same area they had previously been shown by another real estate man and had loved for its scenic views. Yes, the lot was available, suited them perfectly, and could be had for all the money they had and a 12-month promissory note for the balance.

God's timing is always perfect. The new house was ready to be moved into the last day of December, 1951. On the first morning of awaking in their new home everybody shouted, "Happy New Year!"

## **The Family, an Asset in Faith Work**

Since daily family devotions were maintained in the Goodman household and *every* member was included in this faith project for the Lord, it became very natural for the children, Vicky and Donnie, to take part in praying things to pass.

On one occasion five-year-old Donnie came to his father and said, “Daddy, I’m praying the Lord will send us a whole hundred dollars in just one gift. I think He can, all right.” Although God had sent in the \$2,200 so quickly for their passage and freight, the income from then on had arrived only in small amounts. Right then \$100 in one sum seemed like a big amount to pray for! Truly they needed it, so they joined in prayer for it.

Five weeks later there it came, having been mailed at the exact time they prayed for it! Watson said, “We came to realize that God answered children’s prayers just the same as for adults, and the faith of us all was strengthened.”

Over the years, as the Goodmans’ four children were born into the family and nurtured in the Lord, each opened his heart as a flower opens to the sun to love Jesus Christ as a small child. Watson said, “I have never detected in any one of our children a sense of rebellion against Christ or His gospel in any way to this day.” When Watson began preaching at the age of 18, one of his early sermons had been, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). The Lord has honored his strong purpose of heart.

## **House Dedication—Murder Demons Kept Out**

On March 1, 1952, the Goodmans held a dedication service of their new home with about 35 present. During the dedication prayer, Watson was led of the Lord to pray in a way he had never prayed before. He asked God to send His angels to protect the house and its inhabitants from the violence of evil men and demons. No one realized how soon the answer would be needed.

About 1½ hours later all the guests had left but one. He had stayed

to listen to Christian records with the family. While the guest was outdoors in the temporary outside toilet, the family heard shouting in front of the house. A mob of about 40 Africans, all blanketed heathen carrying big clubs, were chasing another black African down the street. As he fell to the ground just outside the low brick wall in front of the Goodman home, they began beating him brutally. Watson quickly locked the front door, pulled the children away from the window, and went to a bedroom to phone the police.

While he was phoning, Watson saw the heathen men take off on the run, apparently satisfied they had killed their victim. But a few minutes later, to Watson's utter amazement, the man they had left for dead slowly arose, stepped over the low wall, and made his way painfully around the side of the house to the back yard. Three or four blanketed men, looking over their shoulders, saw the man and came running back to finish the job.

Watson rushed to the kitchen just in time to see Rose opening the back door. He shouted, "Shut the door! By no means open the door!" She obeyed. But turning to Watson, she cried, "But our guest, Tony, is outside! He was coming toward the house!"

Thinking that the life of their guest, Tony Schoombie, was in danger, Watson opened the door himself. All he could see were four furious drunken natives trying to break down the outside toilet door. Watson stepped out on the top step and shouted a warning to the men to leave the premises. There was absolutely no response.

Suddenly, without warning, out rushed the black man they had been trying to kill. Seeing Watson and the open door, he realized this was his only chance of safety. Quicker than a jack rabbit, he made a bee-line for Watson and the open door.

Watson, praying fast, backed up to get inside the door, but the victim was already in his arms. Blood was flying. The four heathen men were pounding the man again and again with their solid wood clubs. Rose was frantically trying to hold on to Watson. The children behind her would not go to the bedroom and lock the door. They were glued to



the spot, shouting, “We’ve called the police! We’ve called the police!” Rose was praying. Watson was praying. Something had to happen. That black man must not die in his arms! Yet there was nothing to do but take his stand in the door lest the men kill the man right in their house which had been dedicated to the Lord such a short while before. If they entered, his family would be in danger as well.

Finally one of the men pulled Watson’s feet out from under him, and Watson went rolling down the steps into a pool of water still there from a rain that morning. Rose grabbed his coat, but it fell to the ground. While still rolling, Watson had presence of mind to shout to Rose, “Shut the door!”

Now there was no way to shut the door with those clubs still swinging through the doorway. Already Rose had received severe blows on the hand and the shin. (On damp days, her leg still occasionally hurt after 39 years.)

But God! With HIM nothing is impossible! Rose cried to the Lord, “Oh, God, save us!” And *that door went shut!* The angel of the Lord must have shut it. God’s promise was fulfilled, “Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me” (Psalm 50:15). When Rose turned the key in the lock, she realized God had performed a miracle. The man they were trying to kill was inside, slumped over on the floor, and the men who had tried to kill him were still outside.

But what about Watson? God took care of him, too. Seeing the coat on the ground, the attackers took it and ran, thinking there would be valuables in it. (There was value in it, but of another kind—namely, gospel tracts!)

And what about Tony? God took care of Tony, who had gone around the house the other way to the front door and was standing there on the porch, sheltered by a wall until Rose could let him in.

Watson arose quickly, knocked on the back door and was let inside, just before the men returned, still with the murder demons in them, wanting to get inside the back door. There was time to witness to the man in the house about the Lord and to give him gospel tracts before the

police arrived to take him to safety. The Goodmans' hearts went out to this man, who had previously broken away from a gang which called itself "the Russians." He had felt it was wrong to live by plundering, killing, and stealing from the innocent. It just so happened that some of the gang had spotted him that day walking alone and decided he should be killed. But God, who sees the heart, decided otherwise.

Watson never got the coat to his best suit back, but he remarked, "I'd gladly trade my coat any day for my life." Yes, the house dedication prayer had been both inspired and quickly answered.

### **Responsiveness in the Germiston Area**

The Goodmans wondered how to gather the native children, who were running the streets and "growing up like Topsy," for their first religious service in Germiston's black township. Then the Lord reminded Rose of her father's old cowbell which she had brought to Africa. They rang it to catch the children's attention and ask everyone who wanted to listen to some stories to come along. In no time 120 children gathered.

From then on, the weekly meeting grew rapidly, doubling and tripling until within six weeks, more than 400 gathered every week in the same spot. The attendance never dropped below 400 all those years unless it rained. Even then, 200 or more would come and sit in the rain and listen to the wonderful story of God's love for them.



Watson and Rose conducted five meetings a week in four African townships for nearly ten years in

South Africa. There they saw great hunger to read God's Word.

The Goodmans carried four long wooden benches on top of their car to the place of meeting. Their car would be met by many children running alongside, greeting them excitedly. The children often referred to them as "Running Over," referring to one of the action choruses Watson had taught them. They set up the benches in a semi-circle, so some could sit on the benches; many would sit on the ground in front of the benches, and the rest would stand behind the benches. Then they set up an easel with large flannelgraph pictures.

Babies on the backs of young girls seldom ever disturbed the meetings. There was respect and quietness, for everybody wanted to hear. The worst punishment one could give a child for not behaving was to send him home. With the aid of a loudspeaker hooked to the battery of their car, Watson led the singing. Never once did the Goodmans hear any child sing out of tune. They harmonized splendidly. Rose usually gave the illustrated message, and both took part in giving the invitation to receive Christ as Savior and Lord. The response was excellent! After praying with those seeking Christ, the Goodmans loaned books to those who could read English from the traveling library they kept in the trunk of their car.

After the meeting was over, all the children would line up in two lines—boys in one, girls in the other. Each week they were given a mimeographed Bible picture with a message. School teachers in the U.S. had sent thousands of used crayons brought in by their pupils. These had been faithfully distributed so each child could own a few colors. Their ability to color pictures often excelled that of children of the same age in the U.S.

There was such hunger among the African people for something to read. If a sheet blew away, about 20 children would break the line and furiously chase after it to retrieve the precious page. In those days all African schools were taught in English from the third grade onward, so most children could read and understand English well.

For nearly ten years the Goodmans personally reached more than

2,000 native youth weekly—working in the Germiston, Edenvale, Alberton, and Natalspruit areas. Five afternoons a week were given over to “feeding” these dear “lambs” the Word of God.

One local government official in Edenvale, Mr. van Jarsveld, told Watson he noticed a wonderful change in the atmosphere of the whole township. Truly, God’s Word gives light (Psalm 119:130).

Another 3,000 children were reached monthly in both white and black public schools through flannelgraph salvation messages and the showing of Christian films.

Rose also compiled and edited a Christian magazine called *Joy* every three months for boys and girls throughout southern Africa; its circulation was 4,000. Most of these were sold at cost price, handled through churches or public schools. Definite conversions to Jesus Christ resulted through *Joy* magazine.

### **Home Services Fruitful**

It was decided that one Sunday afternoon every month should be set aside to invite white people in the area to worship the Lord in the beautiful brick home which God had so graciously provided for the Goodmans. A meeting for boys and girls was also arranged. To accommodate the large group, the wall between the dining room and living room was removed.

These “Christian Fellowship” services were well attended, averaging from 50 to 70 every month. Quite a number were saved, believers were strengthened, and three church elders experienced heart purification. Revival meetings in their home also bore fruit.

It was a South African custom to serve tea afterward, and Rose found loving hands to assist. These times of Christian fellowship are treasured memories from South Africa. Some of these friends still correspond with the Goodmans today.

## **A Royal Welcome**

When the Goodmans entered the Alberton location for the first time with the gospel message, the school principal dismissed the entire student body and had all the students line up in two lines to escort them to the meeting place. Never had the Goodmans received such a royal welcome in their lives!

The principal attended the meeting and interpreted the message into his mother tongue for the children. However, at the end of the meeting he told the Goodmans, “You don’t need to use an interpreter. Larger numbers will come to hear you if you speak English, because they want to learn that language.”

## **Tsotsis and God’s Intervention**

Serving God in African townships was not without danger at times. A criminal element called “the Russians” and teenagers called “Tsotsis” would rob and kill if they were resisted.

Once these “Tsotsis” came to interrupt one of the Goodmans’ meetings in the Alberton location. The leader of the gang came up to the front and stood by Watson, who was leading the singing. He kept watching Watson and also glancing to the back of the crowd where his gang was standing. Rose felt helpless as to what to do. Both were praying. Then all at once the Lord told Rose what to do. Jesus treated even Judas as a friend! She reached down into the old suitcase containing pictures and booklets. She picked up several of the nicest ones she could find and marched over to the leader, who was still trying to get Watson’s attention. Not for a minute did Watson stop singing.

“Sir,” Rose said, “I see you have come to our meeting. You are very welcome to share with us. May I please give you these beautiful pictures and things to read? We want you to have them. They are a gift to you.” All the time Rose was trusting in her Lord and obeying the Spirit the best she knew how.

The gang leader looked intently at Rose, felt her sincerity, and *smiled!* He looked at the literature, scrutinizing it, then looked at Rose

again, tipped his cap respectfully, and motioned to the gang members at the back. They all walked away peacefully.

The Goodmans felt that the printed Word had really won a decisive victory that day. These young men were bent on causing serious trouble, but they appreciated something to read—and that it had been given as a gift.

A few months later a Tsotsi who was converted in that location in one of the meetings told the Goodmans his first thoughts about a missionary coming to his area: “I just thought Mr. Goodman was a big fat Dutchman coming to sell us something and trying to collect all the pennies he could get out of us. But when I saw he was giving us these things free, I changed my mind about him and decided to come to the meeting.”

Poverty was rampant and life was cheap. One young man told the Goodmans he was coming home from work at dusk one evening and was stopped by a Tsotsi who put a dagger under his chin and said, “Make a shilling!” (A shilling was worth about 14 cents.)

“H-O-W can I make a shilling?” the young man shivered. He had no money at all.

“Then give me the coat on your back and I’ll let you go free,” replied the Tsotsi. This he did. Can you imagine a life being threatened for just 14 cents?

### **The Need for Literature Becomes Evident**

As the Goodmans continued to see great eagerness to *read*, their eyes were opened to the tremendous value of the printed Word. The children took the literature home, and the *whole family* read it. If the older people could not read, someone would read to them.

On one occasion when giving out gospel tracts in the Germiston area at Turton Hall, Rose had given out her very last tract. Still the people were coming. Many outstretched hands remained empty, just *empty!* Then an old white-haired man, hobbling slowly along, came up to Rose. He reached out his skinny arm, hoping to receive something to



read. But there was absolutely nothing left to give. That night Rose went home with a very burdened heart. *Why* did that old poverty-stricken man have to go without!

Watson and Rose prayed earnestly. In prayer Watson heard the voice of the Lord, “Give ye them

to eat.” That settled it! NOW the challenge came to trust the Lord to supply the finances to give free Scripture booklets to the masses of

Africans needing God’s Word. Most Africans could not afford a Bible even at a subsidized price. Month after month many had tried to save enough for a Bible but could not, even though blacks in South Africa received the highest wage for a black man anywhere on the continent. How the Goodmans longed to reach every man on the street on the Gold Reef\* . . . and throughout South Africa for that matter! They needed help from above! Yes, that’s it—*Help From Above!* Thus the Lord gave Watson the name for the topical Scripture-by-subjects booklet which he compiled to give away free. Later it was printed in their garage in three South African languages—Zulu, Sesotho, and Shangaan. The Goodmans saw firsthand the effect of God’s printed Word. It made their gospel preaching and teaching reach farther and be more effective. This was encouraging, but the newly literate and spiritually hungry readers were rapidly increasing.

In response, Watson traveled to Johannesburg and placed an order for a small new offset printing press. There was no money to put down, but God said to get it and He would stand good for it! The motto of the work was “Jehovah-jireh—the LORD will provide.” He had always provided wherever He had led. The company agreed to wait for the money until the press arrived in their plant. They had to order one from England and expected it to take about three months before delivery could be made.

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\*This goldbearing district in northern South Africa, on a plateau of 6,000 feet elevation

known as the Gold Reef, is ten miles wide and sixty miles long. It had for many years produced about half of the world's gold. Under the central city of Johannesburg, 12 miles from Germiston, mining reached a depth of 10,000 feet and was done on 30 levels.

### **A Small Printing Press Arrives**

One day six weeks after the order was placed, while Watson was gone, some men came to deliver the press at their very door! “But it must be a mistake!” Rose gasped. “We haven’t paid any money on it!” “No, this was the order from the boss. He said to bring it. He knows you will pay for it.”

Imagine Watson’s surprise when he got home!

“The press is here,” were Rose’s first words of greeting.

“Oh, you mean it has arrived in Johannesburg? Great, we’ll go after it!”

“No, I mean it’s sitting out in the garage!”

In wonderment and praise to the Lord, who does ALL things well, Watson immediately began learning to operate the press. He took only four mornings of printing lessons, and the press worked fine.

This was a foretaste of what God had in store for the Goodmans. He was preparing them even then for a much bigger step of faith.

### **Vicky’s Journey of Faith**

When Vicky, their firstborn, was nine years old, she felt a desire for more certainty in her Christian life. One morning at the close of a service when the song “Pass Me Not, Oh Gentle Savior” was sung, Vicky went forward for prayer. There, in simple dedication to God and surrender of all her doubts, she felt fully accepted by the Lord.

“While going home after the service,” Vicky said later, “I felt so assured and happy-hearted about it. Soon after this, I started a Biblestudy class for some girls in my class at school. We met each Thursday afternoon at our home for three years, and again after our furlough to the States.”

“Because of all the answers to prayer I saw growing up,” she says, “I never had problems believing that God existed and ‘that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him’ ” (Hebrews 11:6).



When the Goodmans' third child was born on August 2, 1956, Vicky was expecting another brother but hoping for a baby sister. On learning that she had a new sister—Ruth Estelle—Vicky was so happy she could scarcely speak. God used this new baby's sweet innocence to make Vicky long to be more Christ-like. Her devotional life increased as well as her expectant faith.

### **Outstanding Answer to Prayer**

Vicky recalls, "When we first went to Africa on faith, we used African buses for transportation to the meetings we held. One day when my dad was having private devotions, his mind was directed to Psalm 37:4, 'Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.' Realizing that the Holy Spirit was impressing this upon him, he prayed, 'Lord, I'm delighting myself in You, and I desire a car; we need it for Your work, and I desire it by the end of this month.'

"With this simple prayer, he felt peace in his heart about the matter. Taking what money he had (only \$15.00), Dad started out to look for a used car. At the first place he stopped, the salesman had no interest in selling a car when he learned that Dad had only \$15.00.

"Dad decided not to tell the next salesman that he had only that much. He would use a different approach. Looking further, Dad saw one low-priced car which rather appealed to him and waited patiently for the salesman. To his surprise the salesman turned out to be the manager of the place. This man took a real interest and agreed that for \$15.00 he would hold the car for one week. The balance of the down payment could be made at that time if Dad still wanted the car. If not, he would lose the \$15.00. 'In the meantime,' he said, 'I will get a roadworthy certificate so you can take the car when you come in.'

"For the next few days, income was only \$15.00, but that was needed for groceries. Earnest prayer was made, for it would be a serious matter to lose the Lord's money on this deal.

"On the last afternoon, when the down payment was due, the mail was late. Just after it was dropped in our mailbox at the gate, Mother felt



challenged by the Lord to bow her head before opening it and pray, ‘Lord, I believe You have sent it!’

“Mother found several letters in the mail from the States but not one had money in it. One letter from within South Africa looked unimportant, since it didn’t even have a return address. As Mother opened it, out fell a check written for 50 pounds—the

exact amount needed for the down payment! The note read, ‘My wife and I have been exercised in prayer about your need for a car, so we enclose this amount to help toward it.’ ”

Praise the Lord for His precision timing in providing this car . . . and it was *before* the end of the month. Later God used some of His people in America to pay for a new car for the Goodmans. “It seemed that the Lord saw every need, no matter what it was,” Vicky recalled.

“Once when Mother had a speaking engagement on Sunday, she discovered on Saturday afternoon that her last pair of good hose was ruined. In South Africa at that time all the stores closed at noon Saturday for the rest of the weekend, so she couldn’t buy any. But arriving at the post office, she found a letter and a small package in the mailbox. In the package was just one item—a pair of hose! It had been mailed about five weeks earlier from one of her sisters in the States. God brought them at just the needed moment.”

### **Teacher Winnie—Christianity Wears Well**

In their regular afternoon services about this time, an African school teacher was converted. Her life became full of meaning and purpose. In fact, when the young teacher came forward to pray and seek God, 34 teenagers followed her. Under God’s blessing, Teacher Winnie (Mrs. Winfred Ramatlo) entered social welfare work to help her own people and advanced in her field until in 1967 she was chosen by the U.S. Embassy to visit the United States as a participant

in the Headstart training program in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was given one week to visit the Goodmans, who were then in Winona Lake, Indiana. When they met her at the airport in Ft. Wayne, Was: one of the first things she said to the Goodmans “Umfundis and Ma’am, the Christianity you brought us wears well.” That week of fellowship with Teacher Winnie is a treasured memory. Her Christian influence continues to spread. In her latest letter to the Goodmans she said, “Whatever happens [in South Africa] I will not give up Jesus Christ.

Winnie Marogo was a student of the Goodmans in Mt. Frere days, worked for them for some time at Sunnyridge, and still writes to them today. She found Christ at Mt. Frere. ”

### **Furlough Time—1957**

After a fruitful term of more than six years, it was time for the Goodman family to furlough again in the United States. To their sorrow, only about two months before they left Africa by ship for Boston, Watson’s father passed away unexpectedly.

Soon Watson and Rose were representing their work among churches in Ohio, Indiana, and Florida, where they stayed for a time with Watson’s mother in her winter cottage.

Calls came from California for missionary meetings, where there was much missionary interest. They must go—but how? On the very last day before they needed to leave for scheduled speaking appointments, God supplied funds with which to begin the journey. In two services en route, God provided enough for the rest of the journey. They stayed seven weeks in the lovely home of Watson’s sister, Otta Mae Eddy, where they were treated royally.

### **Harry—Youngest Passenger**

Arriving back in Ohio, the Goodmans continued holding missionary services. Their younger son, Harry Woodrow, was born July

3, 1958, just six weeks before their return to Africa. Because they already had round-trip tickets, the shipping company charged only \$20.00 for Harry's fare. Most of the ship's crew said Harry was the youngest passenger they had ever seen. He was also one of the best travelers and stood the journey well.

### **Printing Ministry Increases**



James Sizani ran the small press in the Goodmans' garage at Sunnyridge. It was purchased new in 1956 on faith at a cost of \$1,700.

When at last they were safely back in Germiston, arriving only one day before their visa expired, the Goodmans were welcomed by many Africans, and especially by their native Christian workers. Some who had previously worked for them had found other employment in their absence but were eager to help again in the printing and distribution of God's Word. The public school students—both black and white—also welcomed them back for regular monthly ministry.

Because of their growing family and printing efforts, it became necessary to build an office behind their house and double the garage for housing the printing facility. While the office was being built, Watson led James Sizani, one of the construction workers, to the Lord. He became involved in the printing work and later became an outstanding assistant, keeping the printing press going while the Goodmans were out reaching the children in the African townships.

What a thrill to have more literature for the 2,000 young people each week in the open-air services! The future was unseen as they

continued to print *Help From Above* Scripture booklets in three South African languages—Zulu, Sesotho, and Shangaan.

### **Unrest and Danger**

About this time a foreign element came into the black townships, urgently advising the Africans that the white people were their enemies. Much unrest developed as a result. Soon the country was under a state of emergency for two weeks. No white missionaries were permitted to hold religious services in the black townships. The Goodmans could not travel to the townships, nor could the native workers come to them. Many Africans, close friends of the Goodmans, were greatly disappointed, and a few risked their lives to come to warn them of danger at hand. One attempt was made to derail a train on which the Goodmans' friends were traveling to warn them not to come to their troubled area.

God's printed Word came to be very important when people were forbidden the privilege of religious services. God used this experience to convince the Goodmans more deeply than ever that after all is said and done, it is the Word of God which abides forever (1 Peter 1:23-25; John 6:63; and Isaiah 40:8).

### **The Word Comes Alive**

One beautiful April morning Rose awoke just as well as ever, but by evening she was struggling for her life in a hospital. Severe hemorrhage and blood clotting made her condition acute. Just before she lost consciousness, she reached for her Bible and asked God for a promise. The Bible opened at John 11:26, and the words fairly leaped at her: "And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" With her whole heart she breathed a prayer, "Oh, God, I do believe." Both that verse and God's presence were very real to her just then.

Immediate surgery was necessary, and on awaking under an oxygen tent, Rose thought of all the thousands of people in the townships whom

they had not yet reached with the gospel. It was utterly hopeless to think they could do so just by word of mout.

Then a strange question rose in her mind: "Suppose we could never speak in those townships again, would those who have heard remember the Bible teaching well enough to pass it on or would the message become uncertain and inaccurate without the *printed* Word?" Quietly she lifted her heart in prayer, "Oh God, what is the answer to all this?"

Clearly the reply came, "Yes, they NEED My *printed* Word. Will you give it to them?" An earnest response immediately followed: "Yes, Lord, spare my life and we WILL!" Rose soon recovered fully. The vision for printing God's Word for the masses was born.

### **God Uses Ruthie**

God used all the children from time to time in various ways of witnessing and in the mission printing, typing, and errands of many kinds. The children shared in the Goodmans' ministry, and the family prayed together regularly.

Ruthie, at four years, was a happy child but unusually seriousminded. Often she came out with deep thoughts. One was: "Wherever yesterday went, today is sure to go."

One afternoon a white teenage neighbor boy dropped by to visit in their back yard. Ruth was sitting on the back step, so Frank sat down beside her and began smoking a cigarette. Ruthie became very quiet and thoughtful.

"What's the matter, Ruthie? Why are you so quiet?" Frank asked.

"I'm listening to God," she replied.

"What is He saying?" he asked.

"He is saying you should not be smoking."

There was dead silence. Neither spoke again. In a short time he disposed of the cigarette and finally arose to go home with the "prick" of an innocent child's remarks still lingering with him. At home he knelt and prayed.

Some time later Frank came back to tell the Goodmans this story and said that because of Ruth he had given up his smoking habit. Truly, God does speak through little children.

### **Unusual Medical Provisions**

An outstanding divine provision for the Goodmans in Africa was the supplying of medical needs. A doctor, a dentist, and an optometrist, all of whom were highly qualified, gave service to the entire family free of charge. This included surgery and all hospital bills. This was in appreciation for what the missionaries were doing for the African people while living on a sacrificial living allowance.

### **A Call to Full-Time Printing**

Watson Goodman, moved by the same compassion as his wife for the multitudes of unreached people with no knowledge of Jesus Christ and His POWER to transform their lives, heard God clearly speak, “Give ye them to eat!”

Every missionary, when reading of Christ feeding the five thousand, notes well the helplessness of the disciples and that *Christ Himself* was the answer. Of the Goodmans’ 15 years of experience as missionaries, ten were without denominational support, yet God had supplied every need. The most they had used for their family and the entire work of printing and reaching so many thousands up to this point was \$8,000 in one year. Now He was calling them to further ventures of faith, much larger in scope.

### **The Goodmans Go to Their Knees**

Events are not always the highlights of a missionary’s life. The real business of a Christian’s call is transacted upon his knees. Prayer is the channel to God’s invisible power and supplies. The founding of World Missionary Press was to be no exception. For some time God had been putting upon the hearts of Watson and Rose the need to expand their literature ministry beyond the boundaries of South Africa. If topical

Scripture booklets were so effective in one place, what could God do if booklets were available around the world in more languages? They knew that a worldwide ministry could not be carried on from South Africa—a country boycotted by many other nations. But how could they leave Africa and its people whom they loved so dearly? They would have to be very sure of God’s leading.

On the night of February 28, 1961, they knew it was time to pray through to definite peace about what God wanted them to do, no matter how long it took. The hours of waiting upon God to know His sure leading were fruitful. God answered their prayers and assured them that they were to go back to the U.S. to begin a worldwide ministry of publishing Scriptures in the languages of the people.

While completing their immediate work in Africa, Watson investigated booking passage by ship back to the United States. The cheaper rates were all taken, having been booked months ahead. First-class passage by boat would cost more than travel by jet plane. Special family rates were available until the end of March. God made it clear they should take advantage of the family rates.

On March 10, exactly ten years after the Goodmans’ first announcement to become faith missionaries, they announced their calling to go back to the United States to establish World Missionary Press. Mrs. Laura Ballot, a teacher in Germiston, when she learned of their return, said, “Oh, a year ago I thought you would be doing this, and I am surprised that it wasn’t sooner. The Christian literature need is just ‘starvation’ in so many places.”

There was much to do. Furniture and equipment of all kinds, including a gasoline generator, public address system, all the printing equipment, the car, as well as many small items needed to be sold.

Then there was also the disposing of their property. Their lovely home with modern parquet flooring throughout had been dedicated to house missionaries as long as the house should stand.

How could everything be sold before the end of March? Someone said it would take miracle. That is exactly what it took!



## **God's Twenty-Day Miracle**

In twenty days all the furniture was sold. Those buying the beds and table allowed them to be used right to the last. The car, the generator, and a host of smaller items were all sold.

The Goodmans gave the sizable equity in their Germiston home, which had risen in value, as an outright gift to Dorothea Mission—a holiness, indigenous, inter-Christian work. What a satisfaction it was to the Goodmans that the house was to continue to be occupied by servants of the Lord. The Goodmans were booked to fly home March 30. Dorothea Mission needed housing for new missionaries coming from the Belgian Congo April 1. What perfect timing of the Lord!

Finally, the only things left to be sold were the printing press, the cutter, and all the accessories. In a miraculous way this transpired the very last night in Africa. People unexpectedly arrived from Pretoria in their truck late at night, loaded all the printing equipment, and gave Watson a check for the full price!

The impossible had happened. Hundreds of dollars of free literature in three languages had been printed and distributed. Every account was paid and God had sent in enough funds to provide the plane trip home for all six Goodmans.

Pat and Nan Henegan were responsible for a farewell service held in the Germiston Municipal Hall. Watson and Rose sang as their last duet in Africa, "Beyond the Sunset," written by Dr. Virgil Brock at Winona Lake, Indiana—the very place where the Goodmans were going to establish World Missionary Press. To their surprise, they later found Dr. Brock still living at Winona Lake. In fact, he was the very first person to contribute a Gift Annuity to the fledgling ministry!

The trip home by jet, leaving Johannesburg on March 30, 1961, took less than 21 hours and included four stops: Leopoldville in the Congo, Accra in Ghana, Robert's Field in Liberia, and Dakar in Senegal. Each stop was forty-five minutes and in each place, seeing the masses of

black Africans made them all the more eager to begin publishing Scriptures for the world.

An amazing thing took place afterward in that Germiston home they had left. A dear friend wrote to Rose and said that Dorothea Mission had rededicated the home to the Lord. It was their custom to give a residence a special name. The name they chose was *Shiloh!* Tears came to Rose's eyes when she read this news. Why? Because the church where Rose had been converted to Christ at the age of 14 and where she had received her missionary call to Africa was named *Shiloh*. What a perfect ending to her missionary days in Africa!

### **Beginnings at Winona Lake**

Watson and Rose Goodman got busy looking for a suitable location for World Missionary Press—a name the Lord gave them while in South Africa. All their freight boxes coming from Africa had been addressed to World Missionary Press, Winona Lake, Indiana. By the time those boxes arrived, that address was valid, so delivery was easy.

For the legal completion of a corporation, a meeting was held on June 29, 1961. (WMP was then incorporated in the state of Indiana on July 7, 1961.) Dr. Myron Boyd, speaker of Free Methodist's Light and Life Hour, was made chairman, and Dr. Woodrow Goodman, president of Marion College, became secretary (a position he held for 40 years). Watson Goodman was named President and General Manager and Rose Goodman, Vice-president and Treasurer. Each one present prayed "corporation prayers," asking God Himself to be the uniting, impelling vision, the directing and providing power to the end of blessing millions of hungry people with a living portion of God's Word. Watson felt God would fulfill the call He had given him while still in Africa—to trust Him to eventually provide half a million dollars a year for free Scripture booklets and to print in 300 languages.

A Presbyterian builder, Mr. Bill Bibler, sold them land and put up the first building, 40 x 50 feet, for just \$300.00 as a down payment. This provision reassured the Goodmans that God was in the project.

Machinery had to be bought. A family of six had to live. God's Spirit worked in the hearts of the 600 people on their mailing list and began raising up a host of other interested people to provide for the needs.

### **Dedication of Press Building**

The new building was dedicated to God on the afternoon of November 11, 1961. Just one hour before the service, their son Donald was admitted to the hospital in Warsaw with a severe illness which baffled the doctors. The Goodmans prayed and committed him into the hands of the Lord.



The first building for World Missionary Press at Winona Lake was 40 x 50 feet.

Fifty-five people, including three local pastors, were present at the dedication service. Rev. and Mrs. Glenn Wagoner led the singing and played the accordin. The Stair sisters sang. When the building was presented by president Watson Goodman, the dedication service was led by Dr. Myron Boyd, chairman of the board. Everyone felt the presence of the Lord. The little “mustard seed” had been planted. God would cause it to take root and grow so that millions eventually would find “shelter” in its branches.

After a few days Donald was released from the hospital entirely well. God had healed him. Though tests for polio and other possible problems were run, no diagnosis was ever reached.

In the early days it was necessary for the Goodmans themselves to do all the printing, binding, and shipping. Before long, however, volunteer helpers began to take part, and as literature was sent to the most needy fields, the income gradually increased.

### **Gutenberg’s Vision—“Give Wings to the Truth”**

Gutenberg, who invented moveable type about 600 years ago and is called the father of modern printing, wrote: “God suffers because of the great multitudes whom His sacred Word cannot reach. Religious truth is captive in a small number of books which guard this treasure. Let us break the seal which holds the holy things and give wings to the truth that it may fly to every soul born into the world.”

God burned this vision of Gutenberg into the hearts and minds of the Goodmans. They were driven by the desperate NEED for God’s Word to be let *loose* everywhere. They and their helpers were in a battle for men’s souls!

### **Growing Pains Begin**

As the Lord blessed the work by sending in more volunteer help and increased contributions, the calls for many more languages and in greater quantities pressed upon them. Sometimes Watson printed until two o’clock in the morning in order to try to cope with all the work that was upon him. Rose was working overtime, too. Vicky typed a number of new languages. Donald did a host of jobs. Ladies and groups from various churches gave of their time. Retired men helped. Others volunteered time after their regular working hours.

A youth group in California, including Watson’s nephew and three nieces, raised \$1,000 through various work projects and specified it for a folder. A good used folder was purchased for \$1,000.

For the first six months, the Lord sent in an average of \$650.00 per month. The Goodman family of six (two of whom were in high school) lived on \$300 per month. With the other \$350.00 per month payments were made on the building and the printing equipment, and a start was

made on buying paper, supplies, and postage for a small production of Scripture booklets.

In October, 1962, 10,000 booklets were mailed in four languages. Faith took hold that this quantity could be maintained each month in the future.

Rose related, “At one time when we owed \$500, prompt payment was urgent. We prayed earnestly, but for two or three days there was no income. We felt that this was very strange. God seemed to impress us to look away from any *means* He might use and look to *Him only*. A dear elderly Christian friend who sometimes brought \$5.00 in an envelope came in at noon. We accepted his envelope, grateful for any amount. After visiting a little, we looked at his check—yes, for \$500! We were speechless with gratitude to the Lord and to this brother. Tears filled our eyes, and his too, when he realized how God had used him to fill such a specific need. God’s faithfulness is still found in the path of obedience and trust.”

### **Urgency Aflame**

We must take advantage of the media of mass communication. After being in China for only ten years, the communists could boast that there was not one soul who could say he had not heard of Stalin. Yet after missionaries had been working there for nearly 100 years, millions had not yet heard of Christ. The difference? The communists say they did it through use of the printed page.

Why is it that the children of this world are wiser than the children of light (Luke 16:8)? It is high time to rise and PRINT!

Christ said, “And the gospel must first be published among *all* nations” (Mark 13:10). He expects us to carry out His Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

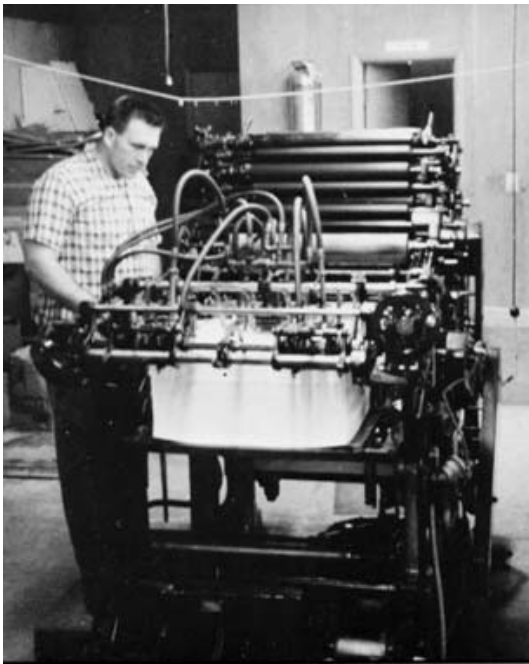
Millions of illiterates are learning to read annually. The big question is, “What will they read?” We Christians face the challenge of providing countless new readers with a portion of God’s Word for which they are constantly asking.

Christ said, "It is written." The *written Word* is needed for the introduction of Christianity and conversion to Christ; it is a necessity for its continuance and growth.

Every one of us who follows Christ is challenged to get this gospel to *every* creature. This is not an impossibility if *everybody* works at this glorious privilege of publishing the *glad tidings*.

### **The Work Expands**

The Lord laid it on the hearts of Paul and Barbara Sweeny to come full- time into the work. Paul rapidly learned to print, increasing production at once. Barbara, whom the Goodmans had known when



Watson pastored at Fiat when she was a girl, worked diligently in the composition area.

With more languages going out, man churches and missionary societies as well as Christian nationals were finding the languages of their own fields available to use. The work was becoming recognized as truly inter-church and as being greatly needed NOW.

Young people were the missionary vision of helping in the evenings with the bindery in getting out God's Word.

Paul Sweeny served as printer on the 17 1/2 x 22 1/2 inch Harris press, purchased used in 1961 for \$5,000.

Groups of ladies and older people were donating their services for many part-time day jobs.

Sunrise Chapel, where most of the Ivan Read family attended (Rose's neighbors during her youth) was the first volunteer bindery group. It would be impossible to name all the volunteers in the early years. The Lord raised up a host of missionary-minded people who came not to be seen but rather to work heartily "as unto Him." Someday the

“Bookkeeper of the Universe” will reward every faithful act, every faithful prayer, and every faithful gift given in His Name.

### **Another Step of Growth**



In 1966 the building was enlarged to 40 x 110 feet, and God provided a truck to haul boxes of Scripture booklets to the post office.  
feet.

As the work grew, God provided additional Spirit-filled men to serve on the Board of Directors. In 1966 the Board began planning for a building addition of 40 x 60

The new building idea soon caught on, and construction began in April of 1966. Not only did the building project move smoothly, but finances followed closely with construction. By the afternoon of June 25, the addition was dedicated debt-free. Gratitude for what God had done reached great distances. People began to thank God and expect Him to bless the work more and more.

David Livingstone once said, “I am ready to go anywhere as long as it is forward.” When someone walked through the enlargement of the press building, he exclaimed, “Well, this is a giant work-horsesized room with only a pony-sized press in it!” And sure enough, soon came a \$110 check specified toward the purchase of a much larger press. Watson soon had Board approval for such a purchase, and shopping for a web press began.

### **New Web Press Purchased**

In mid-1966 an order was placed for a two-unit web offset press which would print both sides of the paper in one operation. The press was installed in December and within the first four weeks of operation, 3½ tons of paper were printed.

In 1967 president Watson Goodman wrote, “On June 1, we still needed \$17,256 toward the press. Today, in mid- July, that need has

completely vanished. God has led in this venture of faith. Eleven months after ordering and seven months after delivery, the \$48,000 cost of the press is all paid.”

Truly God is not dead! He is very much alive and wants to show Himself strong in behalf of those who love Him (2 Chronicles 16:9a).

Watson had an answer for those who thought \$48,000 was a lot of money for the press. “It is going to cost a whole lot more to feed this press than to buy it.” As of March, 1974, \$48,000 worth of paper was being fed through the press in less than four months. (By mid-1991 this amount was being spent on paper almost every month.)

### **Watson’s Mother Goes “Home”**

On February 15, 1967, God called to Himself Mrs. Myrtie Goodman, Watson’s mother. She had reached the age of 83.

Together with her husband, Rev. W.P. Goodman, who went to be with the Lord on July 24, 1957, they had served many years of pastoral work, served in home missions, and reared a family of six. The senior Goodmans had spent six years as missionaries in Jamaica, West Indies, after their children were raised. The fruit of their labors remains to this day.

Among the great gifts and inspirations of a godly mother, it always seems that her prayers are missed the most.

Rose recalls the following unusual remarks made by her “second” mother: “A bad boy needs to be watched, a good boy doesn’t mind being watched, so therefore watch them all!” “The boy who doesn’t take the first drink will never become a drunkard.”

All her children had much to remember, and they talk about the good family relationships they shared together while growing up. Truly, “Her children arise up, and call her blessed” (Proverbs 31:28).

### **New Workers—Otto and Joan Beer**





Unforeseen circumstances never catch the Lord unaware. Due to health problems, Paul Sweeny felt it best to resign his work, leaving World Missionary Press without a full-time printer. Who would fill this gap?

Otto Beer ran the two-unit web press purchased in 1966. This \$48,000 press could produce eight times as much printing as the Harris and saved 13 percent on paper costs by using rolls of paper instead of sheets.

Since Otto and Joan Beer had donated considerable time to WMP, they had firsthand knowledge of the desperate need. Their keen interest in missions had enlarged considerably through a visit to Haiti, where they saw how desperately the people needed the salvation message. They were convinced of the power of the Word of God.

When Watson approached Otto, then involved in a family bee business, about becoming the pressman to print God's Word, Otto's first reaction was to laugh in disbelief. But then he took the challenge seriously. After prayer he and Joan left their bee business to others and, with their family of four children, began serving the Lord full-time in October, 1967.

For twenty years Otto served at WMP faithfully until he went into the pastorate full-time. Joan continues to serve part-time in proofreading and preparing Scripture booklets in new languages. This couple contributed much to the increased production and growth of the work. The day will come when they will hear the words of the Lord, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matthew 25:21).

## **God Provides a Bindery**

Missions is God's sublime purpose for Christians. And VISION is required to see beyond the routine labor of publishing God's Word. Some immense trials set in at times. Unfulfilled requests for the year far outnumbered the filled orders for Scripture booklets.

Seventeen volunteer church groups were coming in the evenings to help assemble the booklets by hand. It was imperative that a collating bindery machine be purchased or the new building space would fill up with unbound booklets. To the *Source* again! The need was laid before God in prayer.

The decision was made to purchase a four-knife saddle-stitch bindery valued at \$42,000. In three months the needed bindery had arrived and was set up and working. One could only exclaim, "Well, praise the Lord!" In short order the bindery was paid in full. The Lord did this in 4½ months! Such awesome, quick, and major provision from the hand of the Lord was new to the Goodmans, but very welcome.

## **Lasting Results with High-Speed Equipment**

World Missionary Press experienced growth in every department. A new folder had to be added to cope with the increase of printing.

Letters coming from near and far spoke of real blessing and response to God's Word. A veteran missionary from Hong Kong working with the roof-top schools wrote: ". . . Among all the gospel literature we distribute, *Help From Above* has the most lasting results, for it is God's Word."

Because of its handy size and because this 48-page booklet contained nothing but Scripture, it became popular. Because of modern high-speed machinery, the cost of producing and mailing *Help From Above* in quantities anywhere in the free world dropped from 4 cents per copy to 3 cents per copy. This would not normally be expected because of rising prices, but God brought it to pass.

To help reach Jews, Watson designed another booklet, taking Old Testament prophecies and connecting them with fulfilled passages the

New Testament. God had directed him in naming the booklet *Wings Over Zion* while sitting in an English class at Marion College 24 years earlier! This booklet is now available in six languages.

At the annual dinner in November, 1969, while Rose was reading some letters from the field, the Holy Spirit touched the prepared heart of a young lady who decided to come and help in the work. It was the Goodmans' daughter Vicky. She and Jay Benson had been married in October, 1967, after both had completed their master's degrees in journalism at Syracuse University, New York. Both were employed at the Free Methodist Church World Headquarters at Winona Lake. Vicky's coming into the work relieved Watson of many duties as he appointed her Publications Manager.

### **To Build Becomes a Necessity**

The plant building was soon outgrown for adequate and efficient work. Something had to be done because the work was growing so rapidly. Consideration was given to expanding the building again, but this was impossible because zoning restrictions did not permit the needed expansion. Four different offers of free land were kindly made, but none of the land was zoned for light industry.

Yes, perplexities do arise in the work of the Lord, but God is so pleased to call us His children and to take our hand in our human limitations.

The Goodmans felt impressed by the Lord to indicate on a map all the places the volunteer evening bindery groups came from. Using this method, Watson pinpointed the central focus point—the New Paris-Nappanee area. After prayer they felt inclined toward New Paris—a town 20 miles north of Winona Lake and 6 miles south of Goshen.

God was truly leading, because through God's providence a plot of 3.75 acres was found near New Paris, already properly zoned for a printing operation. God raised up two of His servants, Les and Marietta Hooley, to work with Him in providing this land for World Missionary Press at about one-fourth of its market value. God knew that many

expansions to the plant would be needed. (Later, God supplied adjoining land and nearby properties for rental housing needed for workers.)

### **God Prepared a Lad to Move**

As Rose related the miracle which began on April 8, 1970, her countenance brightened: “As the calls for Scripture booklets were increasing so very fast, we felt God’s call to expand World Missionary Press. We had been certain of God’s blessing in our first locating at Winona Lake, and especially as additional land which adjoined our property was given us for expansion. But when some insurmountable obstacles arose at that location, we prayed. It seemed that God was preparing us for a change. Together we earnestly asked God to remove any barriers and prepare the way if such a large event were in His will.

“When Ruth, our younger daughter, first heard of a possible change, she said, ‘Well, if God wants us to relocate, I’m quite willing.’ I knew she was emotionally prepared.

“But when I mentioned this possibility to our younger son, Harry, who was then just eleven years old, he said, ‘What! Leave all my friends and my school? Leave Winona Lake and go somewhere else? Oh, no!’ he concluded, and his eyes expressed great disappointment.

“ ‘But Harry, when we sing that song, “Ready to go, ready to stay . . . ready my place to fill,” we must really mean it.’

“He replied, ‘Well, Mother, right now I feel like singing it this way: “Ready to go, READY TO STAY.” ’

“Something must have happened that night because the next morning, while I was preparing Sunday breakfast, he came to me all smiles and said, ‘Mother, I’m glad we are going to relocate; I just know that’s what we are going to do! I just had a wonderful dream. Now I can sing that song!’

“And he sang enthusiastically: ‘READY TO GO, ready to stay.’ Only the Lord could have brought this change in outlook.

“Harry had dreamed the previous night that he saw World Missionary Press in a beautiful new building, and it was on new ground.

He had dreamed of a new road going down beside it and newly planted trees growing along the side of the road.”

Just as the foregoing had been related to the writer, he looked out of that new building and saw the young trees planted just as Harry had dreamed of them. God had led the Goodmans to the exact spot. And then the words came to mind, “*How Great Thou Art!*”

### **Building and Dedication**

A modern all-steel building, 100 x 120 feet, with a loading dock was designed. As soon as the new plans were made known, God began to move through His many servants for immediate action.



The 100 x 120-foot building built in 1970 at New Paris. In 1974 an 8,000 square-foot addition was constructed.

Two businessmen offered to pay for the moving of all the heavy machinery—the press and bindery, etc. Many men and women came forward with donated labor to level the ground, build the offices, and paint, varnish, lay carpet, plant the lawn, and care for many other details involved with such a move.

Various individuals and groups gave discounts on materials and contracts; others gave air conditioners, cabinets, sinks, gas furnaces, doors, top-soil, and on and on.

With divine timing the new building became a reality. With the machinery in place, the offices and the production area began to function. An impressive dedication service was held on Saturday afternoon, November 7, 1970.

One great note of victory was voiced for God’s glory. There was no increased indebtedness because of the move. The new building at New

Paris was entirely debt-free except for the same mortgage of \$12,000 which had been transferred from the former building at Winona Lake to the present one. This was cause for much rejoicing. (The mortgage was later completely paid off, and God led the Goodmans to establish a policy of not going into debt for any future operational expenses or purchase of equipment.)

### **Greater Distribution in Israel**

In June, 1971, Watson attended the Jerusalem Conference on Biblical Prophecy. All costs of the journey were provided by the Lord in response to faith. In Israel Watson found great interest in God's Word among both Arabs and Jews. There were many opportunities to witness for Christ. Watson was thrilled to find that *Help From Above* Scripture booklets were already being read in Nazareth, the town of Jesus' youth. Arrangements were made to widen the distribution of *Help From Above* in Europe, Israel, and other parts of the world.

### **Development of Distribution Outlets**

In February of 1972, Jay and Vicky (Goodman) Benson sailed by freighter from New York en route for a four-year term as missionaries to Indonesia, where they were asked to pioneer a Christian magazine for the islands under the auspices of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in the city of Bandung, Java. By the time they returned, God had used them to make valuable contacts for the printing and distribution of about three million copies of *Help From Above* in three Indonesian languages. Contacts Jay made in Botswana, Africa, en route to Indonesia, enabled distribution of *Help From Above* throughout the country in the Tswana language.

Other individuals went as visitors to various countries and distributed *Help From Above*. Among these was Pat Speicher, a friend and neighbor of World Missionary Press, who, early in 1972, visited seven countries of the Orient (Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam) with a World Vision tour. He saw the

effectiveness of *Help From Above* and the eagerness with which the booklets were received. Wally Yoder and Otto Beer also saw this same eagerness for the Word on their visit to Haiti with Men for Missions under OMS. Udell Meyers made a trip to Vietnam, where he witnessed and distributed 100,000 copies of *Help From Above* among Vietnamese soldiers and prisoners.

God's Word is *alive* and *powerful* (Hebrews 4:12). It is the *power of God* unto salvation (Romans 1:16). And it always accomplishes whatever God pleases and prospers in the purpose for which God sends it (Isaiah 55:11). Hunger for the Word is beautifully expressed in a letter from Calagar, Nigeria: "My people send many thanks for *Help From Above*. In fact, gold and silver that you may give us [is] not worth the value of these books, as no price can pay to heaven."

### **The Underlying Divine Support**

"What promise really lifts you when things are at their worst?" an interviewer asked Watson on a live program on WMBI in Chicago. Watson answered, "I believe the 'blanket' promises of God. In them our infinite God commits Himself to supply any and all the needs of His children if they live in the Spirit and dare to take Him at His Word. Christ said, 'If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.' I believe that means if we live in the Spirit, there is no limit to what Christ will do for us and through us."

When quoting Matthew 28:18—"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth," Watson once said, "That is enough power to keep any gospel work from going under! That is power enough to supply every need every Christian may have regardless of what it is!"

In October, 1971, God showed Watson that one has to believe for miracles even to maintain the status quo in a work like World Missionary Press, so one might as well believe for *growth*, for God is able to perform a *bigger miracle* the coming year than He did the previous year.

As they laid hold of that valuable revelation, the work began to grow faster and easier than before.

Watson and Rose were very careful to give God the glory for the success of the work, for they knew they were NOTHING in themselves and that the work was entirely of God. They have said, “It is wonderful to receive each day the supply God has for us and to know that it comes right from His hand.”

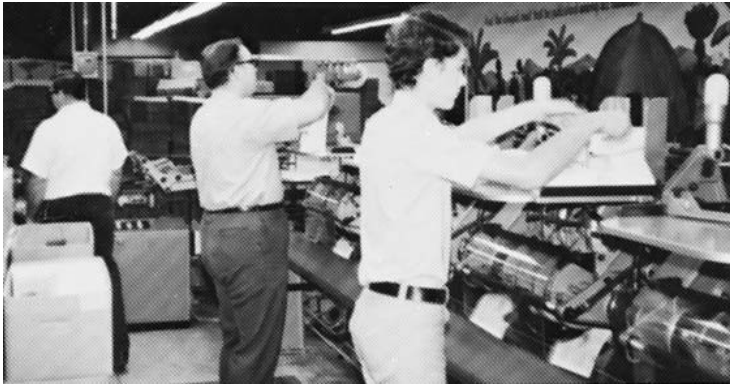
In 1975 Rose was named “American Mother of the Year” for the state of Indiana. The American Mothers Committee base their choice on home-making ability, accomplishments of the mother’s children—the youngest of whom must be at least 15 years old—and the mother’s contribution to society on the local, state, and national level. (In Rose’s case she has also contributed on the international level, as she served overseas and as of that time her four booklets had been circulated in many countries.) She was able to share her booklets with all the State Mothers and many others, including Mrs. J.C. Penney.

She had opportunity to give a three-minute speech on “whatever was closest to her heart” before all the State Mothers and professional women gathered at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. Rose spoke clearly and joyfully of her relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and of the importance of walking with Him as our source of joy, peace, and love. After sharing about her work with World Missionary Press, she closed by saying, “Thus the two things closest to my heart are being fulfilled—to know Him and to make Him known.”

## **Personnel**

By March of 1974, the paid personnel of World Missionary Press consisted of ten full-time workers and eleven part-time workers. Two men, John Kauffman and Marion Deeter, donated almost full-time. God raised up about 400 volunteers, including 37 bindery groups which came every month and over 20 volunteers who came one day a week.





Regular volunteer groups from 70 churches keep the saddle~stitch bindery replenished with folded signatures to be collated.

of the volunteers down through the years have been unusual: One high-school teacher donated two summers. A high-school senior donated her



Other volunteers take the finished product (already stapled, cut apart, and trimmed) off the conveyor belt and put them into boxes for mailing. A paid staff worker supervises the operation.

Myrtle McDowell to join the team as field representatives. For 18 years they traveled thousands of miles. As Neil hared in hundreds of churches his passion for reaching the lost through the Word of God, God touched hearts to give generously.

As of April, 2004— 43 years after World Missionary Press was begun—the paid staff numbered 29 full-time and 10 part-time from at least 25 different churches. Approximately 300 volunteers from 70

Down through the years the Lord has seen fit to send various workers who have come and gone, leaving their imprints in various departments of WMP activities. Several have served for more than 25 years. some

typing skills half-days five days a week for a whole semester. Two young couples donated the first year of their married life to serving the Lord at WMP, living in housing provided by WMP. Others sold their homes and moved to New Paris to donate full-time to help in the process of getting out God's Word.

In 1985 Watson invited Neil and

churches donate time each month. Each of the paid staff—from custodian to president—receives the same low hourly wage.

Over the years the Lord has enabled WMP to acquire four homes, five duplexes, one mobile home, and one double-wide to provide low rent housing for workers who need it.

### **Growth Under God's Hand**

In 1974, a group of volunteer workers put 93,000 copies of the compact-size *Help From Above* through the bindery/slitter and packaged them for mailing in about 3¼ hours. When they reported this to Watson, he said, “Why, it was just seven years ago we were doing only that many per month!” How the work has grown since then!

Here is the production record:

<b>1962</b> .....	<b>71,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1963</b> .....	<b>104,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1964</b> .....	<b>210,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1965</b> .....	<b>493,500</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1966</b> .....	<b>888,750</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1967</b> .....	<b>1,146,350</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1968</b> .....	<b>3,021,100</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1969 (first 9 months)</b> .....	<b>3,501,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1969-70 (fiscal year)</b> .....	<b>3,974,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	

<b>1970-71</b> .....	<b>5,015,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1971-72</b> .....	<b>6,595,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1972-73</b> .....	<b>10,182,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1973-74</b> .....	<b>17,312,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1974-75</b> .....	<b>27,844,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1975-76</b> .....	<b>28,026,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1976-77</b> .....	<b>33,989,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1977-78</b> .....	<b>31,923,700</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1978-79</b> .....	<b>36,384,900</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1979-80</b> .....	<b>29,103,500</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1980-81</b> .....	<b>27,211,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1981-82</b> .....	<b>30,903,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1982-83</b> .....	<b>29,190,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1983-84</b> .....	<b>34,373,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1984-85</b> .....	<b>33,326,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1985-86</b> .....	<b>39,876,000</b>
<b>booklets</b>	

<b>1986-87</b> .....	<b>44,421,609</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1987-88</b> .....	<b>43,789,519</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1988-89</b> .....	<b>40,046,030</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1989-90</b> .....	<b>43,209,695</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1990-91</b> .....	<b>52,330,002</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1991-92</b> .....	<b>40,533,609</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1992-93</b> .....	<b>55,846,146</b>
<b>booklets</b>	
<b>1993-94</b> .....	<b>52,633,437</b>
<b>booklets</b>	

Production as of March, 1974, was 1,250,000 per month.

Production as of September, 1994, was 4,386,000 per month.

Contributions (cash and non-cash in all Funds) also increased:

**Period ending Contributions Monthly Average**

<b>December, 1961:</b>	<b>\$1,009</b>	<b>- \$6,054 (6 months)</b>
<b>December, 1962:</b>	<b>\$948</b>	<b>- \$11,374</b>
<b>December, 1963:</b>	<b>\$1,238</b>	<b>- \$14,853</b>
<b>December, 1964:</b>	<b>\$1,805</b>	<b>- \$21,664</b>
<b>September, 1965:</b>	<b>\$1,904</b>	<b>- \$17,140 (9 months)</b>
<b>September, 1966:</b>	<b>\$4,761</b>	<b>- \$57,135</b>
<b>September, 1967:</b>	<b>\$6,131</b>	<b>- \$73,575</b>
<b>September, 1968:</b>	<b>\$8,647</b>	<b>- \$103,763</b>
<b>September, 1969:</b>	<b>\$8,666</b>	<b>- \$103,995</b>
<b>September, 1970:</b>	<b>\$13,017</b>	<b>- \$156,194</b>
<b>September, 1971:</b>	<b>\$14,307</b>	<b>- \$171,681</b>
<b>September, 1972:</b>	<b>\$15,480</b>	<b>- \$185,760</b>
<b>September, 1973:</b>	<b>\$21,015</b>	<b>- \$252,174</b>

<b>September, 1974:</b>	<b>\$31,587</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$379,044</b>
<b>September, 1975:</b>	<b>\$37,677</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$452,119</b>
<b>September, 1976:</b>	<b>\$44,853</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$538,231</b>
<b>September, 1977:</b>	<b>\$47,469</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$569,624</b>
<b>September, 1978:</b>	<b>\$58,751</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$705,006</b>
<b>September, 1979:</b>	<b>\$62,747</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$752,967</b>
<b>September, 1980:</b>	<b>\$76,806</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$921,673</b>
<b>September, 1981:</b>	<b>\$75,078</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$900,940</b>
<b>September, 1982:</b>	<b>\$90,368</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,084,417</b>
<b>September, 1983:</b>	<b>\$84,425</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,013,101</b>
<b>September, 1984:</b>	<b>\$101,396</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,216,747</b>
<b>September, 1985:</b>	<b>\$125,561</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,506,727</b>
<b>September, 1986:</b>	<b>\$140,947</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,691,367</b>
<b>September, 1987:</b>	<b>\$125,383</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,504,598</b>
<b>September, 1988:</b>	<b>\$130,263</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,563,155</b>
<b>September, 1989:</b>	<b>\$122,511</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,470,130</b>
<b>September, 1990:</b>	<b>\$135,465</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,625,579</b>
<b>September, 1991:</b>	<b>\$152,727</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,832,726</b>
<b>September, 1992:</b>	<b>\$157,732</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,892,787</b>
<b>September, 1993:</b>	<b>\$177,655</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,131,865</b>
<b>September, 1994:</b>	<b>\$157,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,891,290</b>

Every seed is sown by His hand. Every penny of income is from His hand. Every soul won is by His hand. *To God be the glory!*

### **Jay and Vicky Enter the Work**

In September, 1976, having finished their term of service in Indonesia, Jay and Vicky (Goodman) Benson flew home to the U.S. to serve the Lord with World Missionary Press. Jay became Assistant to the President in the areas of production and distribution. Vicky took Rose's place as treasurer and became *WMP NEWS* editor. With them was Jeffrey Craig, who had been born February 17, 1975.

Even as a teenager, Jay's goal in life had been to get involved in the field of missionary literature. God had spared his life as a boy when his

basement bedroom caught fire one stormy night. Through highschool and college involvement in journalism, graduate training, employment as Managing Editor of the Free Methodist denomination's *Light and Life* magazine, and short-term service in Haiti and Indonesia, God had prepared him for service at WMP.

The need for literature impressed itself upon Jay and Vicky during their years in Indonesia. Vicky relates that a publisher there placed an advertisement in a newspaper in Bandung, Java, offering a free Bible correspondence course on the Gospel of John. The response was so great that an office worker had to go to the post office with a wheelbarrow to pick up the mail. They could not afford to make that offer again. In Vicky's heart was born the desire to write *A Bible Study on John*, which could be given freely to everyone wanting to study God's Word for themselves. This study was produced in 1980 and has now been translated into more than 25 languages.

Another need was to produce a topical Scripture booklet especially for Muslims. Vicky was asked to compile such a booklet, and *How to Know God* was produced in 1981. More than 152 million copies have now been printed in 77 languages as it has widespread appeal.

In 1978 a new 2-unit Color King high-speed web press/folder was purchased for \$178,000, increasing the potential for growth many-fold. In 1982 an office addition was built to accommodate a growing staff. It was paid for by a generous gift from one couple. The following year the first New Testaments were printed. In 1985 a 6,000 square-foot addition enlarged the plant, and in 1999 another 6,000 square feet was added as a staging area for ship containers, which came into greater use to send large quantities overseas to distribution centers. Each 40-foot container saves up to \$36,000 over the cost of sending boxes through the mail. God continues to bless the work.

### **Watson and Rose Called to a New Work**

In 1985 Watson saw a need to start a not-for-profit work similar to WMP but with a difference—one that could *sell* in the U.S. as well as

freely provide national pastors and leaders with Thompson Chain Reference Bibles and other aids to make them effective shepherds.

Rose's salvation coloring books—*He Is Risen!* and *The Night Before Christmas*—which were being given away by WMP in the U.S. were not paying their way through specified contributions. Their production was bogging down production of the smaller Scripture booklets and Bible studies. Something had to be done.

Watson was inspired to write an in-depth study of prophecy which could be handled totally apart from World Missionary Press—sold in the U.S. but given away overseas to Christian leaders. In some places it was used as a textbook, and one man reported over 100 people saved. Thus Enterprises for Emmanuel (EFE) was founded in Elkhart, Indiana, with daughter Ruth (having earned her master's degree in communications from Wheaton Graduate School) serving as Executive Director.

By 1987 Watson and Rose, at age 67, felt it was time to step out of WMP leadership and give their remaining energies to build EFE. A severe stroke in 1990 slowed Watson down, but his vision became even more focused on his “parish” of 600 million children of the world. EFE eventually was closed, and salvation coloring books like *He Is Risen!* once again were handled by World Missionary Press, mostly for overseas distribution, in 15 languages.

### **Change of Leadership**

Edwin Messerschmidt, former Board member and long-time friend and supporter, led the work of World Missionary Press from March 1, 1987, through mid-May of 1988. He and his wife, Ruth, graciously moved to New Paris from Alabama for interim service.



In May, 1988, the Board elected Jay Benson president of World Missionary Press after 11 years as Assistant to the President and two years as Vice-president. Watson remained a board member of World Missionary Press until he was called home to his eternal

reward on January 28, 2002. A memorial celebration of his life and vision, including memories shared by Rose and the children, is available on rent-free video and has inspired many to follow in his “footprints of faith.”

### **A New Vision for Growth**

When WMP celebrated its 30th year, God gave renewed vision for this ministry to the millions for whom Christ died. As Jay flew home from India in January, 1991, God gave him a number of goals:

- To increase emphasis on prayer.**
- To move steadily toward bringing the total number of languages for *Help From Above* to 300.**
- To add new titles to provide more evangelistic material for non-Christians, more study material for new believers, and literature especially for children of the world.**
- To send as many ship containers each year as possible.**
- To move toward doubling production.**

That same month God provided the biggest income ever for any one month in the history of the work up to that time. It was awesomely evident that God was moving to provide for these goals.

Since January, 1991, God has continued to provide and enable:

-The prayer team numbers 2,000. A monthly “Hour of Power” was added to daily chapel and a monthly staff prayer-and-fasting time.

-*Help From Above* has been produced in 49 new languages, bringing the total to 293 languages.

-*A Bible Study on Genesis* by Vicky, *My Bible Reading Book* by Rose, and *The Amazing Life of Jesus Christ* by Vicky have been published. More than 123 million copies of *The Way to God* (written especially for children by Rose) have been produced in 87 languages. *A Bible Study on Revelation* by Vicky was published in 1995 and *A Bible Study on Romans* in 2003.



-Using ship containers and other freight shipments now saves \$500,000+ a year over post-office costs, allowing the production of 12,500,000 extra booklets per year.

-God is preparing for an increase of in-plant production to 6 million booklets per month (besides overseas printings). Equipment has been upgraded for greater efficiency, including replacing the web press with one that can print 20 percent faster and adding a second bindery. In 2004 God began to provide *the \$40,000 extra needed each month*. May God be praised! *He* leads World Missionary Press.

### **God's Commencement Overture**

Let us ask how God built this structure—both visible and invisible — which functions as World Missionary Press. It began with the prayers of godly ancestors, and especially with the parents of Watson Goodman and his wife, Rose Stair Goodman. It was nurtured through the youthful missionary calls and schooling of the founders. There were the mission field experiences, numerous lessons of prayer, learning to walk by faith and give praise for all; yes, and waiting lessons— in sickness and in health—but always the God who called them demonstrated His faithfulness, showing Himself truly dependable.

Small numbers gradually gathered around the work. Then a large array of well-informed but widely-scattered people also believed God and prayed accordingly. Many caught a vision of the world's need for the gospel and of *what God can do*.

Hungry hearts are calling for God's truth. They call from the snow country, from the desert, from highland steppe, from jungle clearing, from countries with insufficient food, and from lonely prison cells. Their pleas show God's people the need, and God has raised up a growing company of people largely unknown to each other, but powerful in prayer and giving, volunteering, and distributing. All these are called of God to function as World Missionary Press.

God uses His Word to heal earth's broken-hearted, and YOU AND I ARE A VITAL PART OF IT. How we thank our God for it all!



Watson and Rose Goodman with Dr. and Mrs. Paul Parker, Sr. 1974 (author of the book)



Russell and Ruth Stark have mailed boxes to all parts of the world. They donated one day a week for years. Ruth at present donates two days each week and says, "Working here at the Press has given me more satisfaction than anything I have ever done." Much of the mailing of the Scripture booklets has been done by volunteers over the years.



Kay Hurd typesets a foreign language. The Pre-press Department, under supervisor Randy Bowman, is now computerized with desk-top publishing capabilities.

John Benson (**foreground**), Jay's father, retired as Art Director from Light and Life Press, and was Pre-press Foreman at WMP for nine years. Jay's mother, Sherry, was *WMP NEWS* editor. Reg Blackmer (**left**) was pressman and bindery operator for fifteen years. Joan Beer (**right**) still works two days a week after 28 years.



Ray Condict, New Testament Production Supervisor, operates the threeknife trimmer, the final stage of New Testament production.



Boxes of Scripture booklets in many languages are stored near the mailing area for easy access.



More than 1½ tons of Scripture booklets leave the WMP loading dock, on average, every working day for destinations around the world.



Rolls of paper now need to be ordered about every two weeks, at a cost of more than \$25,000 per truckload.

### ***You Are Invited to Get Involved***

World Missionary Press is a great team effort by God's people to publish the Scriptures in the languages of the peoples of the world. Your financial investment will have significant impact. **Every dollar** you give provides scripture booklets for eager readers! We invite you to contact us at:

***World Missionary Press, Inc.***

**P.O. Box 120**

**New Paris, IN 46553**

**Phone: (574) 831-2111;**

***E-mail: [mailroom@wmpress.org](mailto:mailroom@wmpress.org)***

***Web site: <http://www.wmpress.org>***